


# etc.

magazine

## 100 Years of

The Muni logo, consisting of the word "MUNI" in a stylized, red, blocky font with rounded edges.

Transferring from  
the classroom to a career

City College of San Francisco · Fall 2012

**Fostering  
Higher  
Education**  
Guardian Scholars  
Program

**Hungry for  
Success**  
City's culinary  
entrepreneurs

**The Nanny  
Diary**  
Paying for college  
is child's play



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The Spring 2012 issue of Etc. Magazine  
is now available online.

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**OUR MISSION:** Etc. Magazine is written, edited, photographed and designed by journalism students at City College of San Francisco. Our goal is to cover the students, faculty, staff, administration and alumni of the college and the surrounding community. We strive for the highest standards of journalistic excellence, because our product reflects not only upon the individual students who produce it, but also the Journalism Department and the college.

**FRONT COVER:** photography by Margarita Brichkova  
design by Cat Brewer  
Cover photograph taken at Forest Hill Station inside the Twin Peaks Tunnel.

**BACK COVER:** design by Whitney Gisvold  
Emerge Studios/Design Studio Practicum

This decision tree is inspired by vintage games and contemporary infographics. Designer, Whitney Gisvold, is a CCSF graphic design student looking for inspiration in nostalgia.







## editor's note

With all the negative coverage about City College's accreditation crisis and threats of closure, it's important to remember the positive things this school does for the community. The list is endless. We unearthed 10 stories about students, alumni and programs that exemplify how City College makes a difference in people's lives.

Stan Burford, KGO's "Eyes in the Sky," got his start in broadcasting here. After his recent retirement, he reflects on how City College launched his career in radio.

Retired Brigadier General Keith Kerr, a former dean here, schooled Republican presidential candidates on TV about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

In case of an emergency, contact Nick Majeski. The former City College graduate is the person responsible for protecting City Hall, "the People's Palace," from a disaster.

Saving lives is all in a day's work for San Francisco's firefighters, paramedics and nurses, who get their training through the college's EMT and Paramedic programs.

City College gave the owners of Nopa, Bi-Rite Market and Cowgirl Creamery "food for thought." These culinary alumni have met with success beyond their wildest dreams.

On its 100th anniversary, Muni operators describe how they have "taken the city for a ride." The college fueled many of their careers.

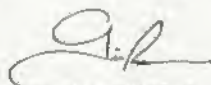
Foster students describe how they were neglected at home, but nurtured on campus. Our student body president tells us how City's Guardian Scholars program saved her life.

From Vietnam to Afghanistan to Iraq, troops are bringing the war home. A student whose father grappled with PTSD describes how veterans' families suffer, too.

City College mourns the loss of Milton Marks III, a trusted trustee who dedicated his life to making our school a model of success.

Finally, a student nanny describes how she is putting herself through college while raising other people's children.

We all know someone who has gone to City College. Now, you know a few more. You might ask yourself, who would train the city's workforce if the college were to close?

  
- GINA SCIALABBA

## letters to the editor

### CHRONICLING CITY COLLEGE'S IMPORTANCE

Your most recent Etc. Magazine is excellent and compares very favorably with professional magazines. Really, very impressive work. I went to City College a very long time ago. I was a Mission District kid, first in my family to graduate from high school. I had a scholarship to another college covering tuition and books, but not room and board, but I couldn't take advantage of it because my family simply could not afford to send me to college. So I went to CCSF for two years. I knew nothing about college, and like most of my pals, knew little about life outside the Mission District. City College saved my neck; two years there were very important in my life; I learned how to speak in public a little, how to write a little, how to look outside my own small world. I worked on the literary magazine, was on debate team and even ran unsuccessfully for student body president. I finished up at the University of San Francisco; you always identify with the college where you got your four-year degree, so I always say I went to USF. But City College gave me my start. City College really made a difference.

CARL NOLTE, REPORTER  
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

### A PRECIOUS STORY

Thank you so much for your outstanding piece on Sapphire ["Sapphire: An elusive gem," by Gina Scialabba, Spring 2012]. You did a magnificent job, and I am grateful for it. Your writing is high quality, and your research, impeccable. I sure wish she had granted you that interview, but you did an extremely powerful job without it. I did want to say that you might have considered footnoting the fact that the young men accused of, convicted of, and jailed for raping the Central Park Jogger were found to be innocent. It doesn't change the core of "Wild Thing," because her institutional critiques still stand for the life and actions of the hypothetical young man who is the speaker in the poem. I also want to commend you on the rest of the issue, which I am continuing to read with pleasure and interest.

LESLIE SIMON, COORDINATOR PROJECT SURVIVE  
CCSF INSTRUCTOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

### AN EXPERT EVALUATION

The quality of your magazine is impressive — very professional and superior to any other student publication I've seen. Kelcie's article ["Donner Descendent," By Kelcie Walther, Spring 2012] came out very well — clear, concise prose is such a relief! — and the illustrations really complement her narrative. The genealogy chart worked much better than anticipated — your tightening it up made a definite difference — and even though the map had to be reduced to fit the space, it's still very effective. The little cabin and tents marking the camps are just right. It's surprising how a little touch like that can add to the overall effect. Thanks again for all your hard work, and congrats to the whole team on a job well done.

KRISTIN JOHNSON, DONNER HISTORIAN, LIBRARIAN  
SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE





# **/// ★ ///** *Serving* with *Pride*

By Louise Bleakley  
Photography by Margarita Brichkova

**An officer who  
challenged the  
military's stance  
on openly gay  
service members**

*Retired Brigadier General Keith Kerr, 81, acknowledged that he is gay on national television.*

During his career in the Army Reserve, Colonel Keith Kerr hid part of his identity. After he retired, the former City College dean told everyone his secret.

**I**n 2003, on the 10th anniversary of the implementation of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, Kerr, Brigadier General Virgil Richard and Rear Admiral Alan Steinman submitted an opinion piece to the New York Times. The officers, who admitted in writing they were gay, were contacted for an interview. Several days later, the story ran under the headline, "Gay Ex-Officers Say 'Don't Ask' Doesn't Work."

At the time, nearly 10,000 gay service members had been discharged under the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Kerr stepped forward again in 2007 during one of the Republican presidential primary debates. The panel of candidates included Sen. John McCain and Gov. Mitt Romney.

"My name is Keith Kerr," he said in a YouTube video clip aired for the nationally televised debate. "I'm from Santa Rosa, California. I'm a retired Brigadier General

with 43 years of service... And I'm an openly gay man.

"I want to know why you think that American men and women in uniform are not professional enough to serve with gays and lesbians," he asked.

Romney, who dodged the question, was booed.

"I look forward to hearing from the military exactly what they believe is the right way to have the right kind of cohesion and support in our troops," he said, "and I'll listen to what they have to say."

CNN moderator Anderson Cooper asked Kerr, who was in the audience, "Do you feel you got an answer to your question?"

With a tight grip on the microphone, the retired military officer responded in a raspy voice.

"With all due respect, I did not get an answer from the candidates," he said to audience applause. "American men and women in the military are professional enough to serve with gays and lesbians. For 42 years I wore the army uniform on active duty, in the reserve and also for the state of California. I revealed I was a gay man after I retired. Today 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is destructive to our military policy."

During CNN's post-debate discussion, an analyst questioned Kerr's motivation, suggesting he was a plant because he was on Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's LGBT national steering committee.

Kerr, a long-time Log Cabin Republican, denied that he was put up to it.

"[My question] was a private initiative of my own," he later explained, noting that he was not actively involved with Clinton's LGBT steering committee. He had simply endorsed it.

Four years later, the Obama administration repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW at his home in Santa Rosa, Kerr recalled warning his family and friends about possible blowback. After all, he was admitting he was gay at a televised Republican debate.

"I called my nephews and their wives to say 'I hope I am not going to embarrass you.' They all supported me."

David Kerr was struck by his uncle's courage. "It was very difficult for him to do that, given his background and the amount of time he spent in the military," he says.

"He is always striving to do the right thing and treat people the right way."



Frank Haeg, a business instructor at City College and friend since the 1960s, was not surprised by Kerr's activism. "There was always a deep desire to be a champion for a cause," he says.

Today, Kerr lives alone in a two-story, four-bedroom, three-bath home in the hills northeast of Santa Rosa.

On a recent Saturday morning, the 81-year-old cautiously makes his way around the side of his house in search of a clay pot for a geranium cutting.

"Things got messy while I was in recovery," he says as he passes a wheelbarrow filled with small succulents waiting to be planted. Two weeks earlier, he had lost his balance and fell in the bathroom. His partially shaved head reveals a sweeping gash that required several stitches.

As he checks on the Wisteria and Japanese maple bonsai plants growing under a gazebo, Chelsea, his 9-month-old Golden Retriever, escapes her leash and runs out onto his covered swimming pool.

"I'm enjoying her as a puppy, but I think I'll enjoy her more as an adult when she doesn't get into everything," he says as he tries to lure her away from the pool.

Inside, he gestures to a room off the kitchen that his friends affectionately call his "I love Keith" room. The walls are adorned with pictures of Kerr, his family, other servicemen, and numerous framed awards for service.

The Legion of Merit. The Meritorious Service Medal. The Army Commendation Medal. The Distinguished Service Award. And more.

In an adjacent room, a certificate bestowed by San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan announces July 8, 1995 as Keith Kerr Day in the city. It commemorated his retirement from military service.

KERR TRAVELS TO meetings all over the country to plan and build support for repealing the Defense of Marriage Act, his latest cause. He is a representative of the Service-members Legal Defense Network, which is challenging the constitutionality of denying gay partners the rights of married couples.

"I think it's going to take five to 10 years," says the octogenarian.

Kerr is confident it will get done.

"There are so many accomplished gays

and lesbians that the public will change their attitudes," he says.

IN THE '70s, at the dawning of the gay rights movement in San Francisco, Kerr was protective of his budding career and his relationship with his family.

"I had to be closeted at the time," he says. "I had too much invested to come out with the Harvey Milk group."

Kerr, who admired Milk as the first openly gay man elected to public office in California, said he was deeply saddened when he heard that the gay rights activist and former San Francisco Supervisor was murdered.

A THIRD-GENERATION Californian, Kerr was born in 1931 at Ross General Hospital in Marin County. When he was 2, his family moved to Stockton, a then small town in the San Joaquin Valley. He graduated from Lodi High School in 1949. Being gay in a small, conservative farming community wasn't easy.

His mother, a school teacher, was one of 11 children raised on a dairy farm in Oregon. Rose Kerr was a quiet woman.

"A little Victorian," he says.

His father, Wendell, was an executive at PG&E. Desperate for his father's approval, Keith was envious of his younger brother's athletic ability.

"My father took a great deal of pride in Bill. He was the opposite of me." A retired captain in the Marine Corps, Bill is a community leader and an elected

member of the Cupertino Sanitary District Board of Directors. His brother has always been supportive, Kerr says. They are still close.

"We're very proud of what he's done and the fact that he's stood up for these rights," Bill says of his brother.

Growing up in the '40s, Kerr didn't know any openly gay people. In high school, he hoped his lack of interest in girls would pass.

"I thought, I'm waiting for this big flash to come and I would really be interested like my pals in dating."

Instead, he discovered his father was homophobic.

"I remember him making a remark about a local newspaper editor he thought was a



Kerr prominently displays this official military portrait of himself in his "I love Keith" room.

queer," he says. "I had to keep everything a secret."

The two grew estranged.

After high school, Kerr attended the University of Nevada, Reno. Clean cut, blond-haired, blue-eyed and handsome, women were attracted to him.

"I was a good boy with good values. Very religious," he says.

During Christmas break in his freshman year, on a visit home, he met a young gay florist from Modesto with a promiscuous reputation. They became friends and began writing to each other.

Weeks later, Kerr's parents visited him in Reno. His father looked upset. He was clutching a letter Kerr had sent to the florist, who had been arrested for "messing around" with local high school boys.

"Dad had no idea. It was a complete shock," Kerr says. The details of that visit are still a blur. "I have suppressed so much. It was so painful... I just remember that I was very humiliated and ashamed."

Distraught and wishing to please his parents, Kerr started seeing a psychologist who gave him testosterone injections to cure his homosexuality. At the time, it was considered a mental disorder by the

**“With all due respect  
I did not get an answer  
from the candidates.”**

**— Keith Kerr**





## GAYS IN THE MILITARY

66,000

Estimated number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people serving in the military according to the Williams Institute, UCLA's Gay Rights Policy Center

2%

Roughly 2 percent of all military personnel are gay

4.2%

The Rand Institute estimates that 4.2 percent of the United States population is gay



Kerr examines one of the bonsai plants growing under a gazebo in his backyard.

American Psychiatric Association. (A California law banning "therapy to change the sexual orientation of children" was passed in September and will go into effect in January.)

For a short time, Kerr coped by thinking he could "cure" himself.

"I thought it could be genetic. Some people have red hair. Some people have blue eyes. I thought, this is what I have been dealt. I have to live with it and survive. My father's approval was important."

His father cut him off financially and did not speak to him for a year. Kerr transferred to UC Berkeley to finish his studies in political science and business. He assured his parents that the therapy had worked, that he had been cured.

They never spoke about his sexuality again.

BEFORE COMPLETING HIS degree, the 22-year-old interrupted his studies to join the Army and serve in Germany. He returned two years later and graduated from UC Berkeley in 1956.

The young graduate joined the reserves to prove to his father that he was officer material. He trained one weekend a month, and two weeks in the summer for nearly 40 years.

Undecided on his career path, he worked in marketing for TideWater, an oil company based in San Francisco. Then he sold military equipment to the armed services for two years. One of those years he spent in Japan, where he learned how to cultivate Bonsai trees.

In the early '60s, Kerr ascended through the reserve ranks, helped by his paratrooper training at Fort Benning, Ga., and an

eight-week-long Green Beret course. He learned how to construct wireless devices, send signals from behind enemy lines and build explosives.

As an Army Colonel in the '80s, he led a 30-person unit to Japan five times to gather intelligence about China. His team studied aerial photographs of the communist country's factories. This gave U.S. intelligence an idea of what kind of threat China posed.

In 1991, five years after he retired as a colonel from the U.S. Army Reserve, he was promoted to brigadier general in the California National Guard. He was stationed in the Presidio and at the Alameda Naval Supply Depot.

After 43 years of military service, Kerr retired as a Brigadier General in the California National Guard in 1995.

KERR LOVED THE ARMY, but lived in constant fear of being discovered.

He was concerned about his career, his reputation and his benefits. "If you had 18 years of service, it would go down the drain," he says.

Gay bashing and homophobic comments were part of the culture.

"For a long time I had to go along with the jokes," Kerr says. People would say things like 'You guys are running like a bunch of faggots.'

"In my day we all had to laugh and go along with it."

Although he joined the military to prove something to himself and to convince his father that he was a man, he wasn't going to put up with this abuse forever.

IN THE '50s, KERR DATED a woman for two years and considered marrying her. Like other closeted gay men, he was concerned about living a traditional lifestyle that would please his family and friends. But he

In 1974, Kerr met his late partner, Alvin Gomer, who was an Episcopal priest and clinical psychologist.





couldn't bring himself to do it.

"I admired her but I was not in love with her. There was no sexual attraction," he says.

"I really did not accept that I was gay until I was 32."

Kerr dated men, but he found out that many weren't interested in serious relationships. His heart was broken more than once.

A two-year relationship ended when his partner decided to get married to a woman and start a family. A different partner ran off with another man.

In 1969, he interviewed for a teaching position in City College's Business Department. Chancellor Louis "Dutch" Conlan, a former City College football coach and devout Roman Catholic, asked Kerr if he was married.

The 38-year-old bachelor scrambled for an acceptable response.

"I told him, 'I have been seeing this lady for some time.'"

He lied. He had to. And he got the job. At that time, gay faculty members were still closeted. It wasn't until later that the atmosphere became more tolerant.

In 1974, Kerr met Alvin Gomer, an Episcopalian priest and clinical psychologist, at a disco dance club in North Beach. The two immediately hit it off. Soon, Alvin moved into Kerr's house on Baker Street in the Western Addition.

A DECADE LATER, AT THE beginning of the AIDS pandemic, a couple of City College teachers died of the disease.

**"I called my nephews and their wives to say I hope I am not going to embarrass you. They all supported me."**

— Keith Kerr

When Kerr arrived at school wearing a white cream ointment for a skin condition caused by sun exposure, people were suspicious.

"I looked like the bride of Dracula for two weeks," he says. "The rumor around City College was 'Dean Kerr is dying of AIDS.'"

Kerr and his partner both tested negative.

"We were not promiscuous. That had a lot to do with it," he says. "It distressed me at the time when the religious right was



Kerr at home in Santa Rosa with his 9-month-old Golden Retriever puppy, Chelsea.

saying this is God's punishment for being gay and lesbian."

Kerr taped a handwritten list of friends who died of AIDS to the bottom of his top dresser drawer.

"Every week I would add one or two names."

A teacher at De Anza College, who was a hiking friend, was diagnosed in 1986, the same year Kerr's parents died. His friend succumbed three years later, just before researchers developed the "AIDS cocktail," a combination of antiretroviral drugs that dramatically prolongs the lives of sufferers.

IN 1998, KERR AND GOMER decided to trade in their city duplex for a larger house near Santa Rosa. The place he had bought for \$58,000 the summer after getting his job at City College sold for \$1.5 million dollars in 1999.

But before they could move into their new place, Gomer's health began to deteriorate. In 2000, at the age of 58, he died of liver failure from prolonged alcohol abuse.

"He couldn't drive out his own demon," Kerr says, still unable to accept the suddenness of it all. The year before he

died, Gomer stopped drinking. But his liver damage was irreversible.

Kerr's once homophobic father, a member of the Episcopal Church, never openly discussed his son's relationship but grew to like Gomer very much.

THIS TIME OF YEAR Kerr likes to drive his white four-wheel drive Jeep Grand Cherokee to the mountains to ski with friends and family.

Since he retired in 1996, he's traveled to Russia, China, Italy and numerous other countries. He plans to visit the Galapagos Islands next year.

"I have to admit, I've had a wonderful life," he says as he looks at his Golden Retriever, dozing on his kitchen floor. "Like anybody, there are hard knocks. There are good times too," he says.

"Now," the general says, "if only I could get this puppy trained."

Email Louise Bleakley  
loublink@yahoo.com








# PROTECTING

*"the People's Palace"*

By Kathryn Salamin

Photography by Margarita Brichkova



## City Hall's emergency response manager watches over the hub of government

Nick Majeski sips Earl Grey tea from a red reusable coffee mug as he climbs the stairs to his third-floor office in City Hall. He's one of more than 1,000 civil servants who work in this 550,000-square-foot, five-story, 97-year-old building.

As he passes the limestone walls of the rotunda and walks up the pink Tennessee marble staircase that leads to the mayor's office and board of supervisors' chambers, the 31-year-old City College alum knows exactly where the 14 fire extinguishers are located on the second floor.

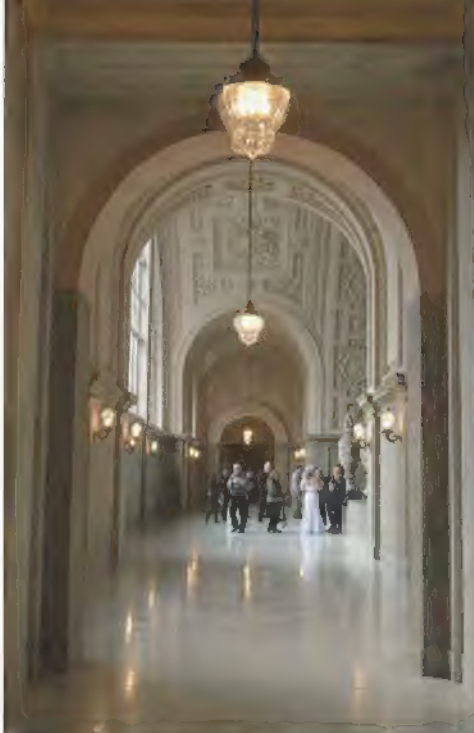
He knows that on the fourth floor of the building there are eight different staircases that can be used in case of an earthquake.

He knows where the heart defibrillators are located on the first and fourth floor.

He knows because it is his job to know.

*Nick Majeski gives the order to trigger the fire alarm during the Civic Response drill in October at the Civic Center.*





It took a decade — and \$293 million — to restore City Hall to its Beaux-Arts grandeur. Majeski is in charge of safeguarding “the People’s Palace.”

**A**s one of the emergency response managers at City Hall, Majeski is responsible for protecting the most important building in San Francisco, a place where civil servants and the public congregate to do business.

“Every single day there’s always something different,” he says with a weary grin.

At 5 feet 8 inches, Majeski is built like a rugby player. He talks quickly, almost matter-of-factly, with one eye on the person in front of him, one eye on his surroundings.

“There is no such thing as an average day,” he says.

His workday begins at 7:30 a.m. when he wakes up to the sound of cable car bells outside his Nob Hill apartment. By choice, he doesn’t own a car, so he rides the 49 bus to work everyday. While passengers around him are yawning, Majeski is taking inventory of the potholes on California and Van Ness streets. He’s making mental notes of the traffic lights that just went out. Noticing and reporting potential emergencies around the city have become second nature to him.

“I consider my job a city-wide role,” he says. “My main focus is emergency response, but I am also the liaison between the other departments inside the building. It’s a matter of keeping people informed.”

For Deputy City Administrator Linda Yeoung, Majeski has been the main line of communication when it comes to emergency management.

In addition to informing the deputy about anything from the delivery of suspicious packages to updating evacuation plans for City Hall, he feels connected to something closer to his heart: keeping his city safe.

Majeski, a native San Franciscan, grew up in the Sunset District. His parents, Annie and Glenn Majeski, noticed their son’s preoccupation with safety even as a child. After the 1989 earthquake, the 9-year-old urged his parents to buy flashlights and other supplies. He recalls feeling the 5.2 aftershock while driving with his father around the pitch-black streets of his neighborhood in a white Dodge Ramcharger.

“I remember my dad’s car was bouncing up and down on two wheels,” Majeski recalls. “I was terrified as a kid. We were not at all prepared for an earthquake.”

Six years later, while attending Lincoln High School, a biology teacher sparked his interest in science.

But Majeski credits Richard Bloomer, a political science instructor at City College, as the one who most influenced his career. He recalls how Bloomer held his interest in class and engaged everybody with his lessons.

“Bloomer was an incredibly animated guy. He was like a mix of Andy Griffith and the Terminator. He somehow equated the

fundamentals of political science with the creation of a martini,” he said with a laugh. “If he didn’t grab my attention the way he did, I probably wouldn’t be working at City Hall right now.”

Bloomer, 80, who retired in 2000 after 35 years at City College, says motivated students like Majeski made his job enjoyable.

“He was a marvelous young man,” Bloomer says. “I loved teaching mature kids like Nick at City College because they know about life, are ready to learn and inspire the younger students.”

After transferring to Sonoma State University, Majeski took a field trip with the

Model UN club to Manhattan.

“The UN trip opened my eyes to the importance and impact of world politics, but

I realized I would rather work at the local level,” he said.

After graduating in 2005 with a bachelor’s degree in political science, Majeski got an internship in building management at City Hall, where he helped with general maintenance, press conferences, events and emergency preparedness.

“I was like the 311 San Francisco City information line, before there was one,” he said.

Majeski also volunteered as a City Hall tour guide, an experience that helped

**“Majeski is my go-to guy. He is the eyes and ears at the emergency center.”**  
— City Administrator Naomi Kelly



familiarize him with the blueprint of the historic building.

He knows where Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe got married on the fourth floor... where Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were killed on the second floor... where "Dirty Harry" was filmed in the mayor's office... where "Raiders of the Lost Ark" was shot in the rotunda.

By the end of 2005, Majeski was working as a section supervisor with building management. After two years, he was transferred to the Recreation & Park Department. A year later, he returned to City Hall and pushed for a bigger role in emergency planning.

He became aware of potential hazards around City Hall. During a routine fire drill, he noticed that the evacuation was not well organized.

"People were literally piling up on top of each other," he said. "I saw this as a

problem. In a fire, most injuries are caused by panic and people getting trampled on."

Robert Reiter, City Hall's building manager, was impressed with Majeski's safety awareness and recruited him to help update City Hall's emergency handbook.

"Nick saw the gray areas of the handbook and he very successfully owned the gray," he said. "He accomplished very important tasks that, if he wasn't here, wouldn't have gotten done."

Majeski began strategizing emergency evacuation plans and implementing them during fire drills. He liked his new role.

"You've got a multi-colored vest on, a bull horn. You have a thousand people looking to you to lead them," he said. "I was an intern and I was telling the higher-ups where to go."

Majeski was originally promoted to disaster preparedness coordinator for the Office of the City Administrator, an official title created by former Mayor Gavin

Newsom. After his recent promotion to emergency response manager, he now coordinates City Hall's emergency preparedness, which Mayor Ed Lee considers a top priority.

Francis Tsang, Deputy Press Secretary for Mayor Lee, explains: "Nick is the lead emergency operations guy for City Hall. He works with all the city departments and agencies in the building to make sure they are ready and prepared for any emergency, big or small. He's kind of obsessed with getting us ready, but it's certainly needed and appreciated."

City Administrator Naomi Kelly says it's easy to overlook important things like emergency preparedness when you're so caught up in your day-to-day job.

"Every big city is vulnerable to a natural disaster," Kelly says. "Majeski's work is a constant reminder of how important emergency response is."

"He is my emergency go-to guy. He is the eyes and ears at the emergency center."

Since San Francisco is on the San Andreas Fault, earthquakes top the list of probable disasters.

It's an issue that's constantly on Majeski's mind.

"The '89 quake was centered near Santa Cruz," he points out. "We're still waiting for 'our' earthquake."

Before the 1906 earthquake, San Francisco's new City Hall was considered earthquake proof, but it collapsed in seconds after the 7.8 quake struck. When the disaster occurred at 5:12 in the morning, the building was mostly unoccupied. Had it been full of city workers, the situation would have been much worse.

The original City Hall building was located just off of Market Street where the Main Library now stands. It was rebuilt and opened at its current location in 1915 for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, a World's Fair that celebrated the completion of the Panama Canal.

Eighty-three years later, the 1989 earthquake damaged the structure and shifted the dome four inches off its base. It took a decade — and \$293 million — to restore the building, which is now considered one of the safest buildings in the city.

While preparing for the next big earthquake is a top priority, it is the unforeseen that concerns Majeski.

*On the roof of City Hall, Majeski discusses locations for webcams to capture the World Series celebration.*







*Majeski gives instructions to participants in the Civic Response Evacuation Drill, which he coordinated and led in October.*

A couple of years ago, he realized that an event that happens 5,000 miles away could impact the city by the bay.

"When the 2010 Japanese tsunami warning went out to San Francisco, it taught our team that we need to consider the unlikely disasters even more," he said.

His biggest challenge is motivating people to remain vigilant. "So everyone has got to be ready now," he says, "not just when it happens."

He prepares civil servants by leading the annual evacuation drill at Civic Center Plaza.

During the 2012 World Series in October, the city was on heightened alert. The day after the first game, Majeski coordinated a "Civic Response" evacuation drill in Civic Center.

"Almost everyone participating didn't know it was just a drill," Majeski said.

It was the biggest drill yet — involving 10 buildings and 4,000 office workers, many of them city and federal employees.

"Before Nick, there was no multi-building evacuation," City Hall Building Manager Rob Reiter said. "Through Nick's efforts in improving City Hall's safety, evacuation time has been reduced."

Majeski has compared his evacuation plan to a symphony, where everyone evacuates at the same time, dividing the plaza into designated sections, with each section playing a part.

He points out that, while a fire drill prepares you for an emergency, the best way to get a city back on its feet is through recovery planning.

Majeski's mantra is "be prepared." He even practices it at home, where he's got a gray "Go-Bag" by his front door. His disaster supply kit contains a flashlight, extra AA batteries, a Leatherman tool, ham radio, a first aid kit, a 50-foot nylon rope, bottles of water, MREs, tennis shoes, extra clothing and toiletries.

He also carries a smaller Go-Bag with him and keeps another Go-Bag in his office.

"Preparing and planning for an emergency is the single most important thing a person can do in case of a disaster," he said. "I take pride in keeping people safe."

To keep in shape, Majeski takes Krav Maga classes, a self-defense course. Israeli Defense Forces use it to help to build strategic skills in emergency response.

"Krav Maga teaches you situational awareness and how to identify potential

threats before an attack occurs," he says. "It also teaches you to kick butt."

As he walks up the stairs to his third floor office, the A.P. Giannini Grammar School graduate nods to every employee who passes by. He shares inside jokes with his colleagues and asks about their families.

"Everyone loves the dude," his co-worker and Lincoln High School friend, Joseph Baxter says. "Nick knows City Hall better than anyone I know. He understands the infrastructure of the building and the interpersonal dynamics of the people. I turn to Nick for almost everything."

City Administrator Naomi Kelly agrees.

"Nick is a wonderful asset to the Office of Administration. He's a hard-worker and passionate about his job. It's a big job to coordinate."

Since he's currently not involved in a relationship, Majeski's job consumes a large part of his life.

"The great thing is, I love what I do. I never consider this an actual job," Majeski says. "The best part of it all is knowing I have a small hand in taking care of my city."

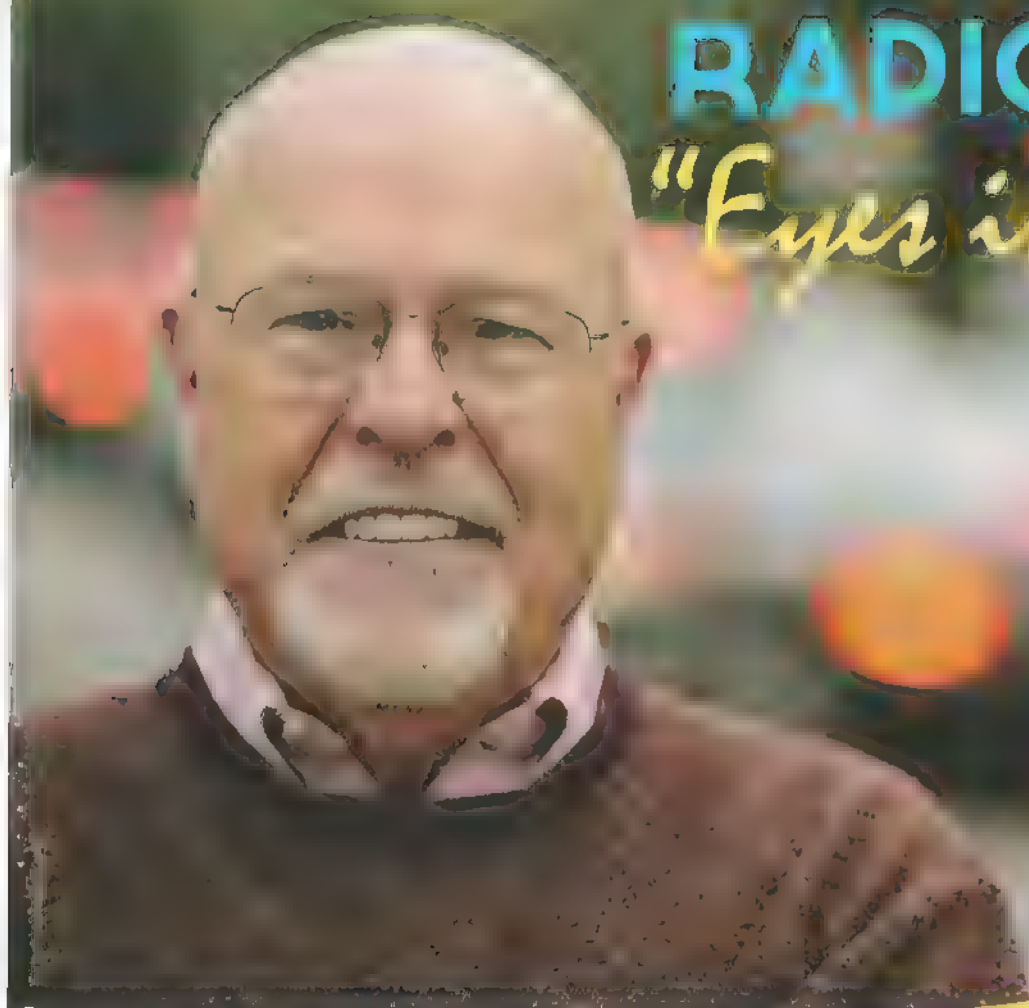
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# RADIO FLYER

## "Eyes in the Sky"

By Rai Sue Susser



Former KGO radio reporter Stan Burford in downtown rush hour traffic shortly after his retirement.

### **Stan Burford retires after 26,000 hours in the air and on the air**

Game 3 of the World Series was just about to start at Candlestick Park. On that clear fall day, Bay Area fans were leaving work early to watch the game. The Giants were down 0-2 in the series against the A's. The Battle of the Bay had begun, and it didn't look good for San Francisco.

Approximately 75 miles south, in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the earth readjusted itself, sending violent ripples across once-stable land. For the next 15 seconds, windows rattled, bottles lept from behind bars, brick facades sprang free from buildings. Buildings themselves tilted and collapsed. And parts of the Bay Bridge and Nimitz Freeway fell. Baseball fans nationwide watched their television pregame show transform into live disaster coverage. The Loma Prieta quake had struck.

From his vantage point in the press box, ABC sports announcer Al Michaels couldn't tell the magnitude nor the extent of damage caused by the quake. He joked that the Oct. 17, 1989 World Series pregame show would go down as "The greatest open in the history of television, bar none."



**M**eanwhile, in a small plane above Richmond, KGO traffic reporter Stan Burford was heading toward Oakland to report on World Series traffic when his transistor radio, tuned to KGO, went silent. As he looked for new batteries, his producer got on the two-way staff radio and shouted the word. "Earthquake!" over and over.

Although he didn't feel the quake, Burford saw a puff of smoke rising to the south, which turned out to be an auto body shop on fire in Berkeley. Then, he noticed a huge plume of what looked like smoke, rising from downtown Oakland. As the plane got closer, he realized it wasn't smoke, but concrete dust rising from the collapsing 880 Freeway.

In a steady tone, KGO's "Eyes in the Sky" told the newsroom:

"I'll do it slowly and I'll do it once. East Bay Cypress Section double deck of the Nimitz has collapsed, upper deck onto the lower deck."

Michaelynn Meyers, a traffic reporter who worked with Burford for more than 20 years at KGO, called it "Stan's famous tape."

Although the station's three transmitting antennas had stopped broadcasting due to quake damage, KGO was back on air within a couple of hours.

Reporting on the chaos below from the KGO plane, Burford was in the air and on the air almost nonstop for the next four days.

His feet did not touch ground until 1 a.m. the morning after the quake. With a full moon, Burford was able to see and report everything. It was an eerie sight. Lights were out across most of the Bay Area.

When he landed, Burford ran to the parking lot. The telephone lines were down, but his car phone was still working. He called his wife, Julie, to make sure she was OK.

"I have no idea how long I will be," he told her. He worked nonstop for the next 96 hours.

KGO suspended its regular programming and switched to earthquake coverage. People from all over the Bay Area and Northern California called in to describe what they were seeing and experiencing.

Burford enhanced the coverage by reporting which roads and bridges were open, and how to best get from point A to point B. KGO radio made its satellite feed available to media stations around the world.

## **I'll do it slowly and I'll do it once. East Bay Cypress Section double deck of the Nimitz has collapsed, upper deck onto the lower deck."**

"That was, in a nutshell, what you are supposed to do," Burford said later. "That is what broadcasting is all about. You are supposed to serve the public and give what they need in the moment. That is what was needed, and that is what we did... It was totally nuts."

THAT DAY, 22 YEARS AGO, and the coverage that followed, was the high point of an illustrious career.

Burford, 69, retired in September. After five decades of broadcasting, the City College alumnus logged more than 26,000 hours in the air while covering Bay Area traffic.

In honor of his years of service, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee proclaimed September 28, 2012 "Stan Burford Day." He was inducted into the Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame the following week.

BURFORD GREW UP in the Outer Richmond in a house his grandfather built and his mother grew up in. He graduated from George Washington High School in 1961.

A year later, he met his future wife, Julie, while organizing a Japanese student exchange program at the Richmond District YMCA. Half a century and two children later, they are still happily married.

After high school, Burford enrolled at City College, hoping to become an architect. He had learned about building houses from his father and grandfather, who were contractors.

His career plans changed, however, when he got involved with KCSF, the campus radio station. After taking a class in broadcasting, he was hooked. He took them all. He had discovered a new career path.

In 1961, the college's tiny broadcast department was expanding under the direction of film, television and radio actor Henry Leff. When Burford started, the broadcast department was located in a small corner of the Science Building. Construction was just being completed on the Diego Rivera Theater building, which would later house the department.

"It was a big deal, because it had a TV station... Schools were just catching on to the concept of turning out classes of broadcast journalists, and CCSF was on the leading edge."

After earning his Associate of Arts degree, Burford transferred to San Francisco State, where he received his bachelor's degree in broadcasting.

While still attending City College, Burford got hired as a DJ on KBCO, a commercial FM station with an easy listening format. In the early 1960s, AM radio was king, and very few people listened to FM.

He worked evenings and weekends for three years at KBCO while he went to school.

Although he was limited to playing orchestral music, he said he couldn't have been more thrilled about his new job.

The KBCO studio was located where the Sutro Tower now stands, in the master bedroom of a mansion once owned by Adolph

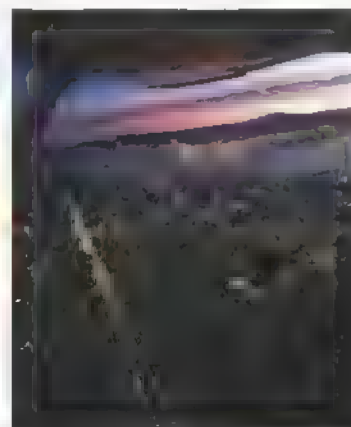
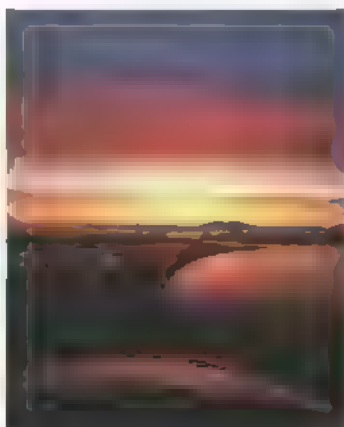
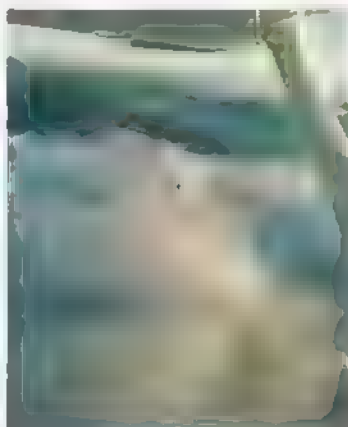
VIEWS FROM KGO AIRCRAFT, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

*A blanket of fog envelopes the Golden Gate Bridge, demonstrating how weather can affect traffic*

*A pink sunrise over Highway 37 and San Pablo Bay, with Mt. Diablo on the horizon.*

*A view of San Francisco's Market Street and the Bay Bridge from the KGO chopper, just before sunrise.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAELLYNN MEYERS





Gilbert Sutro, grandson of Mayor Adolph Sutro.

Julie, his future wife, remembered bringing him dinner at the station late at night.

"The mansion was strange and eerie inside," she said. "It wasn't my favorite thing to do, but when you're young and in love you don't care about that."

When his shift was over at midnight, Burford signed

off and closed the station down. The morning DJ was back on the air around 6 a.m.

"I remember that in the '60s and '70s, San Francisco was in many ways a small town disguised as a city," Burford said. "It was not a 24/7 town. The city went to sleep at night and woke up in the morning. If you were in the Bay Area, you read Herb Caen in the Chronicle, and you listened to KSFO."

In 1963, Burford found out that KSFO wanted a reporter to cover traffic from a helicopter. It was a new concept. Since the city's geography and traffic patterns were familiar

to him—due to a part-time high school job delivering flowers—he thought he might qualify. He called and got the job.

"It was incredible. I went from obscurity as a college student working nights at a tiny FM station, to reporting at the No. 1 station in Northern California. I was part of

the mornings and after noons there."

Burford became a recognizable

voice while doing traffic for KSFO's popular radio personality Don Sherwood.

As a traffic reporter, he would get up early each morning, board a commercial plane that flew around the Bay Area delivering passengers to major airports and report his traffic observations from the air as he peered out the window.

He briefly rode the SFO helicopter, a similar commercial venture that carried 24 passengers. The Federal Aviation Administration certified him to fly in the front seat.

In 1965, while working at KSFO, Burford married Julie. They made their home in Park Merced and later moved to San Anselmo and San Rafael in Marin County.

After 3 years at KSFO, he was fired. He was joking on the air with Sherwood, who apparently didn't find being the butt of his humor funny.

Burford was devastated. But he moved on. Having KSFO on his resume opened doors.

He worked as a medical TV director for UCSF, a producer for KNEW TV 32 and a writer for KBHK TV-44. He eventually returned to San Francisco State and earned a master's degree in teaching.

In the mid-'70s, he accepted a gig directing an educational television channel in American Samoa, where Julie ran a radio station. At the time, their children, Scott and Karen, ages 7 and 5, were impressionable.

Traveling to the South Pacific was "life-changing for them," Burford said. "To see the different ways people lived gave them a different perspective. They've never been the same."

**"I went from obscurity... to reporting at the No. 1 station in Northern California."**

Traffic reporter Stan Burford in the cockpit of KGO's airplane in 1986.







Burford, 69, who wrote the book on Bay Area rush hour shortcuts, seems unfazed by traffic at the intersection of Lombard and Van Ness.

His son, Scott, who runs a marketing consulting company in Sonoma County, agrees.

"[American Samoa] wasn't like suburban San Anselmo, where we lived," he said. "I was exposed to a completely different culture and got to meet people from all over the world."

When the family returned to the Bay Area in 1976, Stan was hired as an executive producer for KGO TV. But after a few years, he was back on the air, starting work at 4 a.m. and reporting traffic for KGO TV and radio.

For 16 years, he worked a split shift, reporting both morning and evening traffic. In between shifts, he kept busy.

Michaelynn Meyers, who did traffic at KGO for 21 years, recalled napping during the day when she worked a split shift.

"But not Stan. Sometimes I'd call him during the day in the middle of a split shift, and he'd be up on a ladder, installing a window or something," said Meyers.

His wife, Julie, said he operates non-stop. "He was always doing projects during the days. He remodeled the house, the kitchen..." She can't remember all the work he did on their 4-bedroom, 3-bath home in San Rafael.

The split shift, she said, "allowed Stan to be a great, active parent. He had an opportunity to do things relative to our children's school that I missed because I was working."

Despite his demanding work schedule, Burford didn't have to bring his work home with him.

"The beauty of what I did — traffic — was that being on air was it. You can't prepare for a truck turning over. What you find in traffic is what you find. When something happens, you fly to it. So the deal was to go out and see what you can find. The plan was — no plan."

In 1991, Burford's daughter, Karen, helped him conceptualize his book, "KGO Stan Burford's Rush Hour Relief: The Bay Area Commuter's Guide to Secret Shortcuts and Alternate Routes."

"I drew the maps for it," said Karen. "It was lots of fun. We collaborated well."

She thought the book was a perfect project for him, because he is "THE go-to guy for alternative routes. He always knows another way to get there. He has a theory called 'the illusion of movement' — that it might take longer to get there via an alternate route, but you feel better than sitting in a traffic jam."

Karen, a teaching assistant and youth soccer referee, lives with her husband and three children in Ridgefield, Conn. They see her parents about twice a year.

Now that he has retired from his early morning job, Burford said can sleep in until 7 in the morning.

He helps his wife with the Ceres Community Project, a nonprofit that teaches teens to prepare healthy meals for cancer patients.

The former traffic reporter regularly drives his 2006 silver Honda Odyssey from his home in San Rafael to Benicia to see his son and his wife, and their two teenage boys.

And he spends more time with his dog, a Goldendoodle named Josie.

"I am really busy all day," he says, "but I can't tell you what the hell I do."

No longer on the air or in the air, Stan Burford, KGO's "Eyes in the Sky," seems content with just being grounded.

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# A PROGRAM THAT WAITS FOR ACCIDENTS TO HAPPEN

For firefighters, paramedics and nurses, City College is ground zero

By Dannie Hawkins  
Photography by Leslie Calderon



*Lifelike dummies get special care from EMT students on a daily basis at the John Adams Campus in the Haight.*

*Top: Dummies, respirators and defibrillators await students in one of City's Emergency Medical Training labs.*

**O**n the first floor of the John Adams Campus, bodies lay on gurneys, arms hanging limply at their side. Perhaps they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. What dummies.

A severed torso reveals muscle tissue, veins and torn flesh. A woman's stomach is ripped open, exposing a baby inside, umbilical cord still attached.

Students gather around the scene. Some are watching, some are participating. It's part of their training.

When it comes to preparing the city's firefighters, paramedics and nurses as emergency responders, City College's Health Care Technology Department is ground zero.

It offers several options for aspiring first responders: an Associate of Science degree in Paramedic Studies, as well as certificates in Paramedic Studies and Emergency Medical Training.

"People give CPR one time in their life and they feel like that is what they were put on Earth to do," says San Francisco firefighter Kenneth Allen, a former City College EMT and paramedic student who now teaches the subject here.

"As an EMT, it is something we do every day," he says. "It's very rewarding and life changing."

It was for his family.

His mother, Mary, a registered nurse who is an EMT instructor, adviser and coordinator, started the emergency medical program at City College 38 years ago.

His father, Richard, began as a volunteer instructor here in 1977, the year Kenneth was born. In fact, his parents met through the program when Richard took Mary's EMT class. Richard later became the first firefighter paramedic in the San Francisco Fire Department, where he got the nickname "Rescue Rippy."



All three now teach at the John Adams campus.

"At least half of the firefighters who are required to take emergency medical training have been trained through the program at City College," Kenneth says.

Many of the college's other EMT instructors agree that one of the most rewarding parts of their job is being able to see students develop their skills into careers. It's more than a career, though. It's a vocation. And unlike some professions, people appreciate what they do.

Saving lives is all in a day's work for emergency workers. Most of them say the novelty of their job never wears off.

Mary says the rewards of her job are many. "I was out having dinner with my husband and the waiter told me that a former student had paid our bill," she laughs.

When Kenneth was serving in Iraq as a paramedic, he told Mary he had met a wounded soldier who asked an interesting question.

"When he found out my son was from San Francisco, he goes 'Do you know Mary Allen?' It was pretty cool," she recalls.

Kenneth says, "If you like people, this is a great job." Students receive first rate, hands-on training from firefighters, EMTs and nurses, many of whom once sat in the same seats.

Students train in real-life situations and also go on ride-alongs with the SFFD and American Emergency Services.

**You show up to help someone and they let you in their home. They are vulnerable, and within minutes you are their best friends."**

"The program is very intense, and so is the job," Kenneth points out. "It's really the best job you could have!"

EMTs handle a wide variety of medical emergencies, including car accidents, heart attacks, gunshot wounds, poisonings and, occasionally, childbirths. They often are called upon to restore breathing, stop bleeding and deal with people in shock. Their work is physically demanding and stressful because they deal with life-and-death situations and people who are suffering.

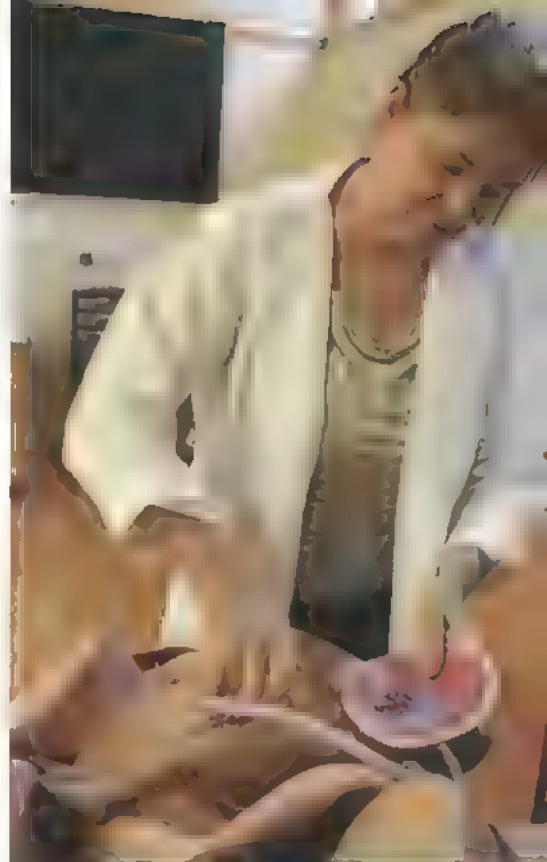
EMTs experience the pressure of the job before they even hit the pavement. They need to be prepared for anything.

"It's a must to keep yourself physically and psychologically healthy," says EMT instructor Philip Harvey, a City College alumnus and retired firefighter.

Divorce, depression and addiction rates are high among emergency responders because it's such a stressful line of work.

A survey published in *Health* magazine reports that "health care workers have long, irregular hours and days in which other peoples live are literally in their hands."

"They only get a few minutes notification before they are out the door," Mary says.



*EMT instructor and program founder Mary Allen shows her students how to handle an umbilical cord during a simulated childbirth.*



*EMT students in a mock emergency situation prepare for the real thing.*





An EMT student lies on a gurney as a classmate practices administering resuscitation.

As a registered nurse with a husband and son in the Fire Department, Mary says the best way to avoid stress is to not think about the risks associated with their jobs.

"It's not so much the emergency that stays with you," Kenneth says. "It's when limbs are dislocated, when you see odd things that the brain doesn't register as normal – like bones sticking out. Those images are hard to get out of your head."

San Francisco firehouses have access to stress units, which consist of trained mental health professionals available to help firefighters and EMTs when they need to debrief after a critical situation. The stress unit is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



## EMT AND PARAMEDIC PROGRAM AT CITY COLLEGE

Not every call to 911, however, is an emergency. Sometimes people call because they're emotionally distressed. Some call out of panic.

"You see a lot of lonely people and elderly people," Kenneth says. "They just want someone to talk to... to care for them. So we sit with them and listen to them. We're there for them."

He recalls one time, early in his career, when his chief insisted they stop at the home of a woman in the neighborhood. Days earlier, firefighters had responded to an emergency call at her house. The chief, who was there when her husband died, said he wanted to check and see how she was doing.

"You learn so much about people," Kenneth says. "You show up to help someone and they let you in their home. They are vulnerable, and within minutes you are their best friend. Strong bonds are created within two to three minutes"

He explains how you never know where a call will lead.

"When someone calls 911, we show up, and it could be to a mansion or to the mayor's house. There's no social etiquette. You're thrown into the situation and you do your job."

EMTs meet all kinds of interesting people.

"And everyone is a character," Kenneth says. "You get to see how dozens of people live on a daily basis."

EMTs are constantly thrown into a variety of situations. For instance, several City College EMT and paramedic students

volunteered during the 2012 World Series Parade at Civic Center, where they treated people with seizures, hypoglycemia and severe intoxication.

"It was a great experience," said Megan Corry, City College's Paramedic Program director. "It saved the Department of Emergency Management a lot of time and our paramedic and EMT students got to work with other experienced paramedics, many of them our own graduates."

PROFESSOR HARVEY EXPLAINS that the amount of material EMT students learn during a semester could easily be stretched into a year-long course. By then, however, they have taken the state board exam and could be working anywhere in the country as a licensed EMT.

"I try to pass on what I know to these students," Harvey says. "The textbook teaches you a great deal, but there is a lot of stuff you can only learn on the job."

Many graduates of City College's EMT program become registered nurses, paramedics and firefighters. Some go on to be fire chiefs. Some become instructors.

For them, life has come full circle. From saving lives to teaching others how to.

"I owe my entire career to City College," Harvey says.

Jim Fazackerley, a SFFD paramedic captain who graduated from the college's program in 1982, says, "City College's EMT and Paramedics program is a model training program, a first-class educational experience.

"It creates an ecosystem, learning, teaching, researching, all in the same Emergency Medical System. We all support and learn from one another," he says.

Fazackerley, who has been an EMT instructor here since 1986, says, "Being a paramedic often involves a combination of feelings - it's exciting, exhausting, exhilarating."

An EMT is never really off duty. Friends, family and neighbors often call with emergencies. EMTs are on-call even when they are not on the clock.

It's all about making a difference in people's everyday lives.

"Isn't that what we all want?" Mary Allen asks. "A life worth living?"

### EMT PROGRAM

### PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

Email Dannie Hawkins  
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*Chef Instructor Ronald Ng teaches first semester culinary students the art of cutting fruit*

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# HUNGRY

— For —

# SUCCESS

By Louise Bleakley  
Photography by Wez Ireland

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## *Alumni are among the city's leading culinary entrepreneurs*

The owners of Nopa restaurant, Bi-Rite Market, and Cowgirl Creamery have helped define the Bay Area's culinary reputation for more than a decade. All three — Jeff Hanak, Sam Mogannam and Sue Conley — got their start at City College.

Perhaps no one is more aware of the contribution that the college makes to education and the local economy. They know that if the college loses its accreditation or is forced to close, the city's primary training ground for skilled food workers would disappear. And an educational tradition that dates back 75 years would be lost.

Here are their stories.





## ON A COOL SATURDAY MORNING IN NOVEMBER,

City College alumnus Jeff Hanak bends over to pick dry leaves off the sidewalk in front of Nopali restaurant. Moments later, he aligns chairs and tableware inside and replaces hand towels in the restroom.

Just before opening, Hanak calls the staff together and talks about the day's menu.

"We're going to have a good day today," he says as he pours seven small glasses of Pinot Noir for sampling by the wait staff. "Does everyone know what station they're in," he asks. After the short meeting, the staff disperses and the restaurant starts to hum as the first wave of customers sit down to eat.

Hanak and two associates opened Nopali's parent restaurant, Nopa, in 2006. The following year, the New York Times said it put San Francisco's north of the Panhandle neighborhood on the map.

Nopa and Nopali together employ 130 people and generated close to \$10 million in revenue last year.

Hanak, who also opened Chow Restaurant on Church at Market in 1997, obviously knows the food business.

"If we don't hire good people we can't have good restaurants," he says as he bends down to pick a piece of lint off the floor. "I seem to have more success with people from City College."

The school's low-cost programs allow students to explore new trades without having to commit to burdensome fees. It can be argued that this service to the community is more important than a traditional four-year degree program, he says.

Like many successful students who have attended City College, Hanak says he's not finished with his education yet.

"I'm still developing my career," he says. He plans to take Spanish language classes here because, he says, "It allows me the opportunity to expand my knowledge."





# 100 years of MUNI

By Hannah Armenta

## Transferring from the classroom to a career

Emma Loughridge, a City College freshman, goes to school five days a week. She spends 40 minutes a day, 200 minutes a week, 13 hours a month and two full days a semester on Muni just going to and from school.

"Without Muni, I wouldn't be able to get around anywhere," says Loughridge, who doesn't own a car.

"I use Muni for everything."

Many of City College's 86,000 students use Muni to get to school and work. With nine campuses scattered throughout the city, students, faculty and staff have grown dependent on the transportation system.

They are not alone. Every day more than 700,000 trips are made on Muni, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in December.



PHOTO BY MARJARIKA BICHKOVA

In 2000, Muni introduced international historic streetcars that run along Market St. and the Embarcadero.

On December 28, 1912, Mayor "Sunny Jim" Rolph boarded Muni's A Line, using a brand new nickel from the San Francisco Mint for his fare.

He rode the streetcar from the intersection of Geary, Kearny and Market streets to Golden Gate Park at 10th and Fulton.

Fifty thousand San Franciscans cheered when he returned an hour and a half later.

After Street Car No. 1's inaugural run, Mayor Rolph gave a speech noting that San Francisco's new transit system was the first municipal railway in the nation.

"It is in reality the people's road, built by the people and with the people's money," he said.

"Our operation of this road will be closely watched by the whole country.

"It must prove a success... We must extend it everywhere possible, until it becomes a great municipal system."

Although cable cars were invented in San Francisco in 1873 and were running up and down Nob Hill a few years later, they were operated by a private company.

"Early in the 20th century, American transit systems were privately-owned, often part of electric utilities," according to Market Street Railway, a local nonprofit preservation organization.

"As a reaction to graft and corruption, and as a reflection of the Progressive Era then sweeping California, San Franciscans

passed a bond to build their own public streetcar system, the first of its kind in a major American city."

The streetcar that Mayor Rolph rode, Municipal Railway No. 1, is considered one of the most historic streetcars in the country because it was the first publicly owned.

"No. 1 looks almost identical to the day it first operated in 1912, down to its rattan seats and wooden interior paneling," says Rick Laubscher, president of Market Street Railway.

TODAY, MUNI HAS MORE than 1,000 vehicles, half of which operate on electricity.

With a fleet of 375 buses, 86 hybrid buses, more than 300 zero emission trolley buses, 151 light-rail vehicles, 26 streetcars and 40





#### NOPALITO (Top, from left to right)

- ◆ Nopalito restaurant, located just east of the Panhandle, is owned by Jeff Hanak, a City College culinary program graduate.
- ◆ Hanak and Nopalito's staff sample a featured wine and review the day's menu.
- ◆ Hanak has opened successful restaurants throughout the city and employed many City College graduates. He is also on the school's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Advisory Board.

#### EDUCATED PALATE (Below):

- ◆ Students sample dishes created for a culinary fundraising event held in October at the Educated Palate, the Downtown Campus teaching kitchen and restaurant on Mission and 4th streets.



Founded in 1936, City College's Culinary Arts and Hospitality program was one of the country's first culinary schools. During World War II, the school trained cooks for U.S. troops in battle. Since then, it has produced some of Northern California's leading figures in local, sustainable food service.

Offering both credit and non-credit courses, City College prepares more than 120 students for work in the food service industry each year.

Students in the program often work their way through school. When they enter the job market, they have realistic expectations about the daily work, Hanak says.

"They are not going to become sous chefs right out of school," he says. The best graduates want to take care of people. "They are humble. They are passionate about working hard at a trade. You will never be perfect. But getting together and providing food and hospitality to people, it's a magical thing."

Many students in the Culinary Arts program are exploring career transitions, says Maureen Kellond, chef instructor for the Food Technology and Dining Services program at the Downtown Campus. The caliber of students at the school has improved over the past seven years as applicant numbers have increased, she says. The Culinary Arts program gives students more hands-on experience than many other schools.

"It gives students the opportunity to see if this is the profession they want, without spending a year's salary on it."

Students in Kellond's free non-credit course work in the kitchen six hours per day, five days a week. Last semester more than half of the students had worked a job to pay living expenses.





“The last thing we need in this industry is to lose another training ground for young professionals looking to follow and pursue a dream.”

– Jeff Hanak, Owner of Nopa

two star Michelin rated restaurant He returned to the Bay Area and worked at The Pasta Shop in Oakland for two years before opening Rendezvous du Monde Restaurant on Bush Street in 1991. Six years later, the tenant leasing his father's store moved out and his father persuaded him to open a grocery store.

“First, I wanted to do a restaurant but my father said no. It's way too many hours.” So Mogannam opened a grocery store with a kitchen in the middle of it.

Educating his employees was a priority and eventually Mogannam opened 18 Reasons, a space for community gatherings and workshops.

“Education should always revolve around the environmental impact and human health impact (food) could have,” he says.

Last year, a San Francisco Chronicle article credited Bi-Rite with increasing employment from 70 to 400 on 18th Street between Guerrero and Dolores.

Many get jobs in the food industry as waiters, dishwashers, bar staff or food preparers. Pay can start at \$15 per hour.

The school's two year accredited culinary program, where students earn an Associate in Science degree and an Award of Achievement, costs about \$2,500. Unlike at other colleges, the fees for City's culinary program have not changed significantly over the past two decades



BI-RITE OWNER Sam Mogannam paid about \$500 per semester when he attended City College's School of Culinary Arts in 1986

After school, he traveled to Switzerland and worked at a French bistro and a

#### BI-RITE MARKET (Top):

- ◆ Bi-Rite Market on 18th Street in the Mission is owned and run by City College culinary graduate Sam Mogannam and his family

#### COWGIRL CREAMERY (Bottom):

- ◆ Left: Cowgirl Creamery co-founder Sue Conley moved to the Bay Area in 1976 and graduated from City's Hotel and Restaurant Program.
- ◆ Center: Devil's Gulch, an award-winning organic cheese, on display at the Ferry Building cheese shop.
- ◆ Right: Cowgirl Creamery's shop, just inside the entrance of the Ferry Building, caters to locals, tourists and commuters.







In May, Mogannam was named one of Fast Company magazine's most creative people in business.

In July, the Wall Street Journal wrote about Bi-Rite's success and, in October, Sunset magazine called it one of the West Coast's "Best Local Food Shops."

Bi-Rite Market (not including Bi-Rite Creamery and Bakeshop across the street) generated about \$15 million in sales in 2011 and grew 15 percent this year.



SUE CONLEY, who co-founded Cowgirl Creamery in Point Reyes Station in 1997, has come a long way since she went to City College three decades ago.

Conley was working at Obrero, a Basque restaurant near Chinatown, when she decided to attend City College's Hotel and Restaurant Program.

Another City College alum and chef, John Cawley, encouraged her to attend because the course was "affordable and it was one of the best culinary trade schools in the country."

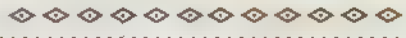
Conley worked long days. She went to school from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., then went straight to work at Obrero, where she cooked for construction workers. The restaurant served oxtail soup as an appetizer, roast chicken and other meat dishes, along with green salad, dessert and, of course, a bottle of wine. All for \$6.

In the late '70s, the Bay Area was under the spell of chefs like Alice Waters, who returned from Europe inspired by the "market fresh" cooking there.

"I came along at a time when the food scene was really changing," Conley says. At City College, faculty and students talked about connecting with the farmer and taking cooking to a level of artistry not seen before in California.

Cowgirl Creamery became a case in point. It has grown to three artisan cheese shops, two cheese making facilities and a distribution operation called Tomales Bay Foods.

"It's important that City College provides an affordable option," Conley says. "It would be a real shame if they closed it."



#### CULINARY PROGRAM (Above).

- ◆ Left: Assistant Chef Instructor Gerald Patterson (left) and student David Madrid prepare sample dishes for the college's downtown kitchen.
- ◆ Center: Ingredients for Chef Ng's crème anglaise recipe, including egg yolks, sugar and cream, are prepped for his Culinary Fundamentals course at Ocean Campus.
- ◆ Right: Patterson applies the finishing touches to two versions of jambalaya.

Bi Rite's owner, Sam Mogannam, agrees. Back in 1986, the last thing Mogannam wanted to do after completing his two year City College program was work in his dad's grocery store on 18th Street.

"I wanted to find my own way, not follow the path of my father," he says. "City College gave me a taste of what restaurant life could be."

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cable cars—it is the largest transit system in the Bay Area and the seventh largest in the nation.

Behind the scenes there are 5,000 Muni employees in more than 200 different job classifications, many of whom got their start at City College.

FRED ORANTES, the Transportation Safety Specialist for Muni, says his passion for travel led him to City College, where he received his Airframe, Power Plant and Aviation Certificate, as well as his an associate degree.

He transferred to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where he majored in Aviation Business and minored in Aviation Safety.

Orantes loved traveling as a kid. His father worked in the airline industry and some of young Orantes' most prized childhood memories stem from the trips he and his family would take all over the world.

"I really have the travel bug in me," he says

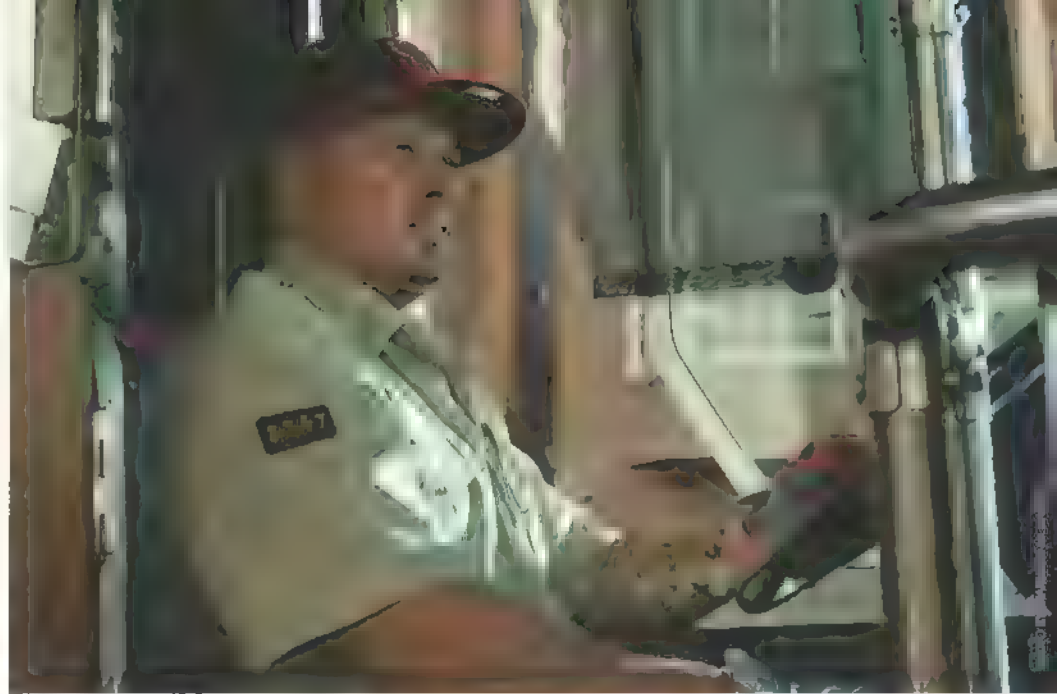
"Getting from one place to another was always enjoyable and relaxing."

As Transportation Safety Specialist, Orantes' job is to identify and investigate Muni accidents.

He also oversees the maintenance of the city's cable cars, streetcars and buses.

Because Muni moves so many people around the city, being in charge of public safety isn't easy.

A large number of accidents that happen on Muni can be avoided simply by everyone just being a bit more aware of their surroundings, Orantes notes.



*Muni driver and City College alumnus Will Parico takes the wheel on his favorite morning route, the 29 Sunset.*

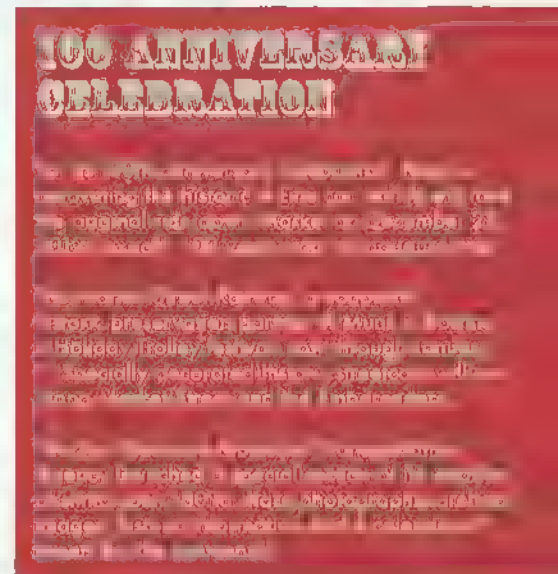
"Bike riders and pedestrians need to be more cautious," he says. "I've seen people walking down the street not paying attention, texting. . ."

His job often brings him to the scene of an accident. Orantes says he's seen people pinned between Muni buses.

And he's seen people get hit and killed.

"It's unfortunate that people don't pay attention to the simple things, stuff you learn in kindergarten, like looking both ways before you cross the street," he says.

WHEN WILL PARICO arrives at work each morning he doesn't know which bus route he'll be assigned. He usually drives one of 15 different routes, from the 71-Haight-Noriega to his favorite, the 29-Sunset.



*Muni has 300 zero-emission trolley buses. Many of them await maintenance and assignment at Muni's Potrero Depot.*





# MUNI FROM THE VAULTS



Streetcars on Market Street, southwest from Beale Street, in the days after the 1906 earthquake and before Muni.  
July 6, 1907 | U01294 |  
John Henry Mentz,  
United Railroads Photographer



Opened in 1918, the Twin Peaks Tunnel was the longest underground railway west of New York City. Forest Hill Station, pictured nearly 60 years ago, looks remarkably different today.  
March 14, 1955 | X3553 |  
Marshall Moxom,  
Municipal Railway Photographer



Fifty years ago, Muni drivers showcased the city's public transportation options. Today, there are more than 1,000 vehicles in the fleet.  
November 18, 1963 | X8275\_1  
Marshall Moxom,  
Municipal Railway Photographer

ARCHIVE IMAGES PROVIDED BY HEATHER MORAN, SFMTA

He also drives the 18, 23, 27, 35, 36, 37, 44, the N Judah Express and more.

At 5:30 in the morning Monday through Friday, the 38-year-old City College alumnus gets his route assignment.

After locating his vehicle, he does a safety check, starts the engine and pulls out of the "Muni barn" at Geary and Presidio.

With two separate bus routes, he has a mid-shift layover that can extend from one to three hours.

When he gets off at 3, he makes a beeline for 24 Hour Fitness in his 2010 black SRT Dodge Challenger.

When he was hired, Parico had to undergo a month-long training program that included in-class workshops, driving tests and a DMV test for a Class C driver's license.

Driving a 50-foot-long bus is a challenge, especially in a city with so many hills.

Parico says it was hard at first, but after five years, you catch on.

Muni drivers are trained to safely handle stop signs at the top of steep grades, sharp turns, one-way narrow streets, traffic delays and difficult passengers.

They interact with hundreds of passengers every day.

"Driving is the easy part," Parico says.

"The hardest part is dealing with the people. Some get on the bus with an attitude and drag all their problems with them. Because you're the first person they see, and they don't really know you, they take it out on you."

Parico adds, however, "some people say 'thank you' and to me that's enough."

Parico hopes to move up the ranks at Muni. He dreams of one day becoming a cable car operator.

With only three cable car lines remaining in operation in the city, it's a coveted job. Buses, cable cars and trolleys all require different skills. People who drive the cable cars and trolleys usually have seniority and belong to an elite club. Parico thinks of them as "top of the line."

"WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK of San Francisco they picture the iconic cable car," says Ray Rezos, a retired cable car grip man.

In 1966, Rezos declared engineering his major at City College.

Eventually he switched to journalism.

Before he graduated he was published in Rolling Stone and the British music magazine Beat Instrumental.

After bouncing from job to job, Rezos started working for Muni in March of 1977, on his fourth wedding anniversary.

At first, he worked on the street cars at the old Geneva Car Barn at Geneva and San Jose avenues.

Like Orantes, Rezos' career choice was influenced by his father.

"I grew up riding those old streetcars and always was a 'rail fan,' a condition my brother and I inherited from our dad," he says. On September 19, 1982, the last day of full streetcar service on Market Street before the subway system went completely underground, Rezos drove the J Church Line.

"It was the end of an era," he recalls.

A few days later the cable car system was shut down for reconstruction.

It wouldn't operate again for another year and a half.

With the cable car system out of commission, many operators and their support teams were assigned other duties.

Rezos' brother Ed, another City College graduate, was a cable car operator and persuaded Ray to transfer.

Ray became a grip man in June 1984, seven years after getting hired at Muni.

His favorite route was the California Street Line because it was usually less crowded.

"You got to know the regulars who rode the Cal Line to and from work every day," Rezos says.

"The Powell Line was fun too, since you got to meet people from all over the world."

Rezos worked as a Muni instructor for the last 10 years of his career.

"It felt good to pass on the knowledge and experience I had, and it was very rewarding to watch new trainees become good operators," he says.

The job skills he was passing on to his trainees were similar to the type of

vocational skills that he and thousands of others had received at City College.

Rezos worked for Muni for 35 years before retiring this year.

"It's hard to say what was my favorite part of being a cable car grip man," says the 64-year-old retiree.

"I loved meeting and talking with people and joking around with them.

I had passengers send me letters and photos from their trip.

"Very rewarding," he says.

"And it was special just to be a part of history."

FROM ITS INCEPTION, the city's public transit system has continued to make strides as one of the fastest and most reliable in the world.

"Even 100 years ago, San Francisco was the 'innovation capital of the world,' when the city used mining technology and applied it to transit," says Mayor Ed Lee.

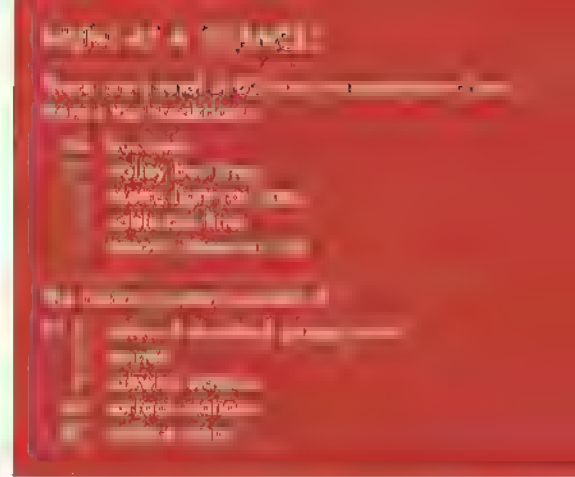
But not everything has gone smoothly.

In November, a man walking in the underground tunnel near the Montgomery station was struck and killed by a J Church train.

Nobody knows why he was there. Some accidents are avoidable. Others aren't.

According to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, in 2011 there were 3,111 injury collisions, 28 of which were fatal. Seventeen of them were pedestrians.

Unsafe speed was the cause of approximately 20 percent of the injury-related collisions. And more than 30 percent of the accidents were caused by colliding with the side of a bus.



From January to August of this year there were 1,412 unsafe driving complaints made to 311 about MUNI.

Other common complaints include the system's 57.2 percent on-time rate, rising fare costs and rude drivers.

Despite its shortcomings, Muni is still one of the largest and most sophisticated transportation systems in the country.

"Muni is not going away.

San Francisco is a transit-first city and a place where many people don't have cars," says Michael Cabanatuan, transportation reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle.

"As much as people may complain about Muni, they also depend on it."

It seems everyone has a Muni story.

For some, it's the time they got lost or pick pocketed.

Or where they met the love of their life or sat next to an old friend.

For others, like many City College alumni, it's the place where they work.

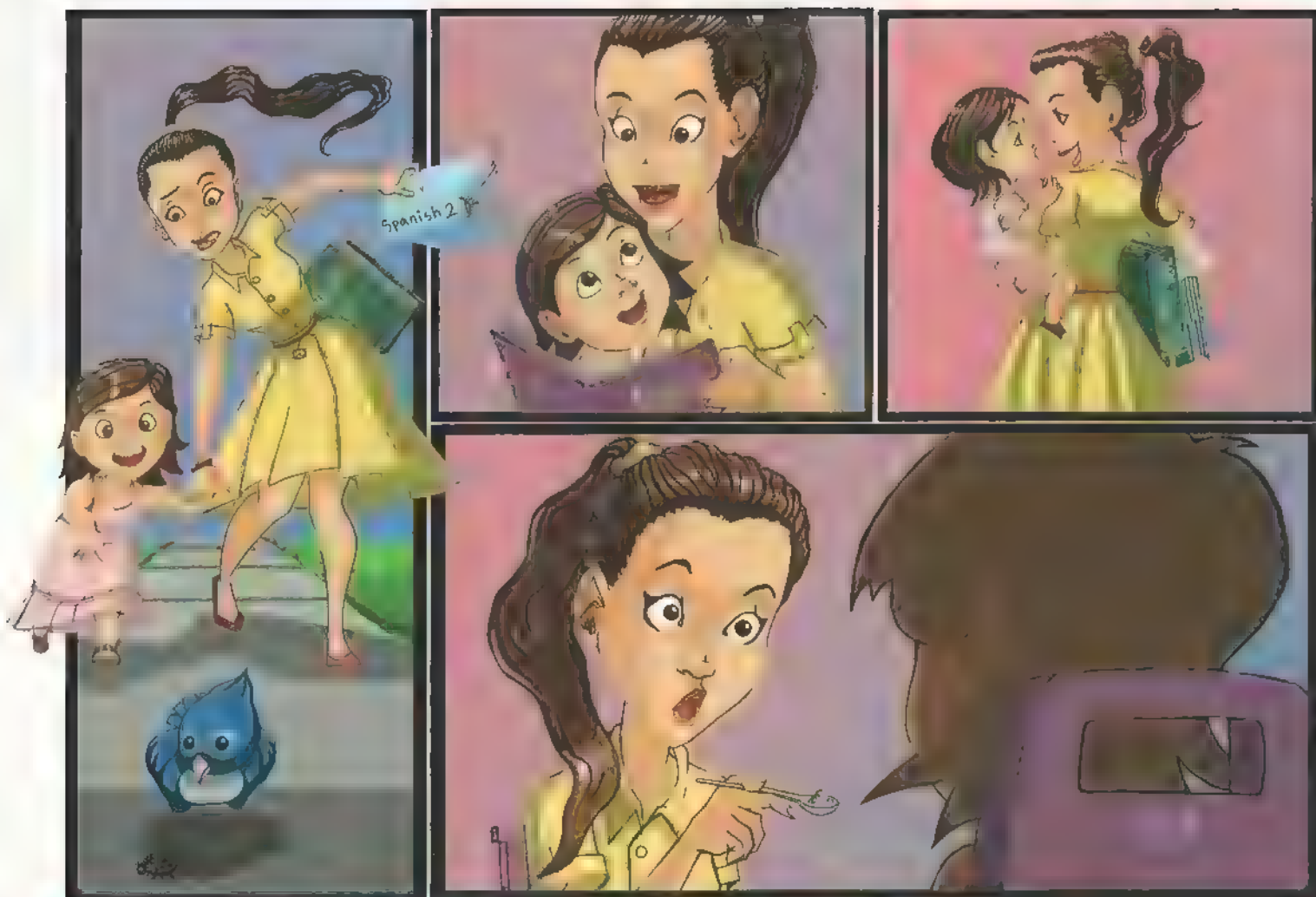
In San Francisco, Muni has its own story, one that is still being written today.

Muni's maintenance yard at the corner of Presidio Avenue and Geary Boulevard services many of the bus lines that operate in the northern part of the city.

Erna I Hannah Armenta  
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# The Nanny Diary

*Paying your way through college can be child's play*

By McKenna Toston

Illustration by Anthony Mata

Twirling the soft brown locks of 1-year-old Harley's hair between my fingers, I think to myself: "I have the best job in the world"

While reading her favorite book, "Alice in Wonderland," for the hundredth time, I pause to kiss the top of her head. I sit cross-legged with her on my lap in Washington Square as a trumpet player nearby serenades us and the last wisp of morning fog rolls by

Harley's hazel eyes look up at me. With an almost toothless smile, she lets out a giggle. Her favorite part is coming up. She helps me turn the thick cardboard page, claps her tiny hands, and says "caaa caaa-caaat!" when she sees the Cheshire Cat in the tree. It's something I've seen her do countless times, but I swear it gets cuter every time.

**A**s a nanny, I spend two days a week caring for Harley while her parents are at work. Her mom is an office manager for a social networking company and her dad is an accountant. My duties include preparing Harley's meals, changing her diaper, putting her down for naps, taking her to the park, giving her baths, playing games with her and supervising as she explores the realm of her parents' cozy two-bedroom North Beach apartment.

I've watched her grow from an infant to a toddler. I was there when she spoke her first words and took her first steps.

My job gives me the freedom and flexibility to focus on school. I currently work for two families and clear \$17 an hour. I nanny 16 hours a week, which covers my expenses. I'm able to do homework while Harley is napping, which gives me two to three hours during the workday to study or do schoolwork.

When I moved to San Francisco two years ago, I worked long hours and struggled to pay my bills. I hated my job at The House of Bagels on 14th and Geary. I made minimum wage and frequently got stiffed on tips. My coworkers were also students, trying to get by in an outrageously expensive city. I despised my early morning schedule. Waking at 4:30 a.m. after a night class is torture. When I got my first paycheck I knew something had to change, but I stuck it out because my boss accommodated my school schedule.

Being a vegetarian in a deli presented other challenges. I almost puked every time I had to slice pastrami. When I arrived home with a piece stuck to the bottom of my shoe, I called in the next morning and quit.

My best friend suggested a new line of work: childcare. She knew I had helped raise my three younger siblings. As a volunteer in my church's nursery and a summer camp counselor, I had plenty of experience. I took a Red Cross CPR/First-Aid class to improve my resume, which read: "Experienced and Nurturing Childcare Provider." Within days, I got a job through Care.com, a website that connects nannies with families.

Over the past two years, I've worked with 10 families in the city. I've looked after 13 kids. Keyana. Isaiah. Luca. Kaue. Inayah. Justin. Abby. Curtis. Lydia. Katherine. Nolan. Elliot. Lily. They ranged in age from five months to 10 years.

I built bonds with each of them, and became a member of their families. Their

parents still invite me to dinner and birthday parties.

While attending City College, I've made enough money to pay for my living expenses, enrollment fees, books and even a plane ticket back home to L.A. every summer. In fact, many students at City College nanny while working on a degree or earning transfer credits.

JILLIAN MCCANN, a 21-year-old who studied Sculpture and Theatre Arts at City College from 2009-2012, continues to support herself as a nanny while attending California College of the Arts in Oakland.

"As a student, it's by far the best job I could have," she says as she works on a school project in the corner of her art-cluttered Tenderloin apartment. "The kids' energy lets me forget about the troubles of the world. Being an artist, kids really inspire me. If I didn't have the constant energy of children, my life would be stagnant. They keep things fresh and honest."

McCann's voice rises an octave when she describes 2-year-old Eloise. "She's such a personality and free spirit. She runs around and says 'hi' to everybody. She isn't shy at all and is such a sweet kid. Really witty and smart. I love her"

McCann met Eloise's mom at City College last year. They sat next to each other in a sculpture class at the Fort Mason

**I've been pissed on. And pissed off. I've been called 'the meanest person in the whole-wide-world' more than once."**

campus. After seeing pictures of the chubby-cheeked, brown-eyed 1-year-old, McCann said she would love to meet Eloise. Soon she became her nanny. They've been spending two days a week together ever since.

Eloise's parents have enabled McCann to pursue her career as a sculptor.

"They're flexible and understanding. They know I have responsibilities as a student—and that's really refreshing."

FOR MANY COLLEGE STUDENTS, the benefits of being a nanny are numerous. But there are drawbacks. I've put up with a lot as a nanny. I've put a thermometer where the sun-don't-shine. I've dealt with hours of relentless crying. I've created "poop-lists," for which I'm required to describe texture, frequency and smell. I've been pissed on. And pissed off. I've been called "the meanest person in the whole-wide-world" more than once.

*The author reads "Guess How Much I Love You" to 1-year-old Harley in Washington Square.*



PHOTO BY MIAMI LID AL GARRY





## Notes on Nannies

A nanny is an individual who provides care for one or more children in a family.



It's a child's word for grandmother that dates back to 1795. In Welsh, "nain" means grandmother. In Russian, "nyanya" means nursemaid.



Most nannies are women between the ages of 20 and 60. Male nannies, referred to as "mannies," are rare.



Unlike babysitters, nannies have regular schedules with the families they work for. Babysitters are on-call and occasional caregivers.

Websites such as *SitterCity.com* and *Care.com* help connect nannies with families seeking childcare.



ALM  
12"

Illustrator Anthony Mata is a City College student studying the complexities of human biology for inspiration. He has worked in video games and is a freelance illustrator.

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When a blonde-haired, blue-eyed 3 year-old sunk his teeth into my wrist, I screamed and gave him a five minute timeout. He cried the entire time. But he hasn't bitten me since.

Kids can be difficult, but parents can be worse. I once had to reprimand a dad, too. He came home one night and photographed me while I was asleep on the couch. When I awoke startled, he asked me to take my top off. I refused. I now negotiate only with his wife.

The dark side of nannying is revealed in "The Nanny Diaries," a film that depicts what it's like working for an affluent family in Manhattan. The main character, Annie (portrayed by Scarlett Johansson), is worked to the bone, verbally abused and sexually harassed.

Often paid under the table, nannies are frequently exploited. Many work overtime without extra pay, and don't receive health benefits, vacation hours, or paid sick days. They stay because they love "their" children.

NANNIES PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE in the life of working parents. The International Nanny Association estimates that there are 1.2 million nannies employed in the United States alone. Of those, many are coeds and ESL students. Some get paid under the table — tax free.

Foreign students in City College's ESL program often become nannies while living here.

Nannying is a good option for them because employers frequently don't inquire about their work-visa status.

"I usually have one or two in my class," says Denise Jindrich, who teaches ESL on the Mission Campus. "They are usually young women in their early 20s and speak English quite well, relatively speaking."

Margherita Cardinali, an Italian ESL student, moved to San Francisco to be a nanny.

"I decided to be a nanny to improve my English, and I had experience with kids," she says. "I'd need a working visa to work at a restaurant or cafe."

Cardinali provides childcare for three children ranging in age from 8 months to 4 years and gets paid cash.

KATYA CORNEJO, a clinical psychologist and mother of five, employs a 21-year-old full-time student from City College as a nanny.

"I am so grateful for the work she does. After she leaves, I have the patience and time to spend with the kids. She is a gift."

Cornejo's nanny has been with her for two years, and plans to stay with the family until she transfers from City College.

IN "THE NANNY DIARIES," Annie is warned not to break the cardinal rule of nannying. Yet she can't resist. "I love you too," she responds to a child, noting that these "Three little words [make] leaving the job a thousand times harder."

It's a fine line to walk — loving other people's children like they are your own, while maintaining enough distance to prevent the goodbyes from breaking your heart.

In November, I said goodbye to Harley for the last time. Her family decided to return to Indiana, their home state. As I gave her a bath, prepared her bottle, and read her favorite book for the last time, I felt as if my own child was being taken from me. But that's part of the job.

For now, the advantages of being a nanny far outweigh the disadvantages. In a year, I plan to transfer from City College to UC Berkeley to pursue a career in journalism.

Kids are a big part of my life. Hopefully someday they'll be my own.

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PHOTO BY JARWUD MCGARRY

Keyana, 6, and Isaiah, 5, enjoy exploring the shelves of the Richmond Branch of the San Francisco Public Library with Mckenna, their nanny.



*Richard Lewis Bryant's rings and American flag, displayed in memorium.*

# The War Within

A family's struggle with PTSD

By Caitlin Bryant

Not all memories of my dad are depressing and gray. Some are happier than others, but one memory in particular stands out. At his open casket funeral four years ago, he finally looked at peace. But for most of his life, he seemed at war

I don't know much about my dad's early years, except that he was born Richard Lewis Bryant in Creston, Iowa, on Dec. 30, 1950. Six months earlier, North Korean troops crossed the 38th Parallel into South Korea. It was the beginning of the Korean War.

At the age of 2, his family moved to Stanton, Calif., five miles west of what would soon become "the happiest place on Earth" — Disneyland. But for him, home was not a happy place.

After a night of drinking, his alcoholic father would frequently return home and beat his mother. Often in front of my dad and his three siblings.

In high school, Dad was on the track team. Years later, he remembered coming in first place a lot, but couldn't remember in what events.

At the age of 20, "Dickie" enlisted in the Army. He served two years as a "door gunner" on a Huey Helicopter during the

Vietnam War. At the time — 1970 — the US military was operating more than 2,500 Hueys. Veterans joke that the life span of a door gunner on a Huey was somewhere between 15 seconds and five minutes because of the inherent vulnerability of operating a machine gun in the open door of a helicopter.

Thirty-five years later, he repeatedly told me why he couldn't sleep at night. He had a recurring nightmare about a Vietnamese child he saw blown apart by a bomb. She was only 10 feet away from him.

A HALF-DOZEN OF HIS WAR medals lined the hallway of his three-bedroom home in Banning, Calif., including the Bronze Star



for acts of heroism and meritorious service in a combat zone.

He took another memento home from the war: PTSD. He is among the 20 percent of Vietnam veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, but he didn't begin showing signs immediately after returning home from the war. He wasn't diagnosed until 2001.

According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, symptoms of PTSD include insomnia, nightmares, increased anxiety and emotional outbursts. He had all the symptoms.

His legs would twitch when he laid down, something called "restless leg syndrome." He had nightmares about the war. And trouble sleeping. He was angry with the world. He had road rage. He had memory problems and trouble concentrating. He'd get in fistfights with his brother and then feel guilty afterward. And of course, he was self-destructive.



## Veterans with PTSD

20 percent of Vietnam veterans have PTSD.

PTSD is a mental health condition that can affect anyone who has experienced a traumatic event.

It can cause a range of symptoms, including flashbacks, nightmares, and severe anxiety.

20 percent of Vietnam veterans have PTSD.

2.1 million veterans have PTSD.

30% of veterans have PTSD.

PTSD is a mental health condition that can affect anyone who has experienced a traumatic event.

DAD WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the Army in 1971 at the height of the anti-war movement – the same year 500,000 protestors marched on the Capitol in Washington D.C. That day, hundreds of Vietnam veterans threw away their commendation medals on the West Steps.

Dickie got his first taste of public sentiment against the war when he tried to flag a taxi at the airport upon returning from overseas. Strangers glared at him in his military uniform. Cabs refused to pull over for him until he changed into a pair of white bellbottoms.

Everyone seemed to be a critic of the war. That upset Dad.

He was one of many war veterans who referred to actress Jane Fonda as "Hanoi Jane." He blamed her for accusing the military of being "baby-killers" on Radio Hanoi during her 1972 trip to North Vietnam.

He came out of the war in great physical shape – his body was fit and muscular. But he had no interest in going to school. He became a teamster in the Port of Long Beach. He called himself an "agricultural transfer engineer," but in reality was a banana boat loader for the Dole Food Company.

Although he developed a drug habit during the war, it became more pronounced when he returned home.

When he met my mother, Christine Catalan, a 24-year-old medical secretary, in 1980, they did a lot of partying.

After he left his job as a dockworker to become a commercial and residential painting contractor, my parents got married.

A decade later, after my older brother, Mitchell, and I were born, my parents divorced. Mom said Dad's PTSD had a lot to do with it. At the time, though, the military was still skeptical about the disorder.

Dad snapped after the divorce. When I was a toddler, he quit his job, became addicted to speed, and lived on the streets in Southern California.

Mitch and I didn't see much of him for two years. After he got off speed, the courts granted him visitation rights again, at his parents' house, every other weekend. When I was 4, I remember he slept a lot. I never questioned his love for us. He didn't have any money, so we spent a lot of time fishing,

doing puzzles and going to movies.

In 2001, when he was diagnosed with PTSD, it was a blessing in disguise. After being unemployed for so long, he started receiving Veterans Administration benefits for being a disabled vet. He bought a house, a dog and leased a car in Southern California. Things started looking up.

What I didn't know was that he had become addicted to prescription medication. Drugs were a way of altering his reality.

He slept a lot of the time during our visits. He would get up and walk out of movie theaters because he said he simply "couldn't keep still."

He couldn't go shopping at the mall or grocery store with us without needing to sit down. He said his body ached.

Besides telling us how much he loved us, he would call me and Mitch at mom's house and tell us how depressed he was feeling.

I know Dad loved me, but he always seemed more excited with Mitchell's accomplishments. My brother had good grades in school, was involved in numerous high school activities and clubs, and was an Eagle Scout. Dad relied on Mitchell to talk him through his problems.

He told my brother, who was still in high school at the time, that if it weren't for his kids he wouldn't be here.

In 2005, my dad attempted

suicide by overdosing on painkillers. Since it happened in the parking lot of the VA hospital in Loma Linda, we saw it as a desperate cry for help.

He was admitted for a week at the VA hospital psych unit. When we visited him, he said he felt humiliated. After a tearful apology, he tried to make light of the situation, saying, "Do you think I really belong with the rest of these crazies?"

According to a VA report released in March, "Current or former military personnel represent an estimated 20 percent of all known suicides in the United States – that's more than 7,000 veterans and service members each year. For every soldier killed in combat, 25 veterans are dying by suicide."

For a while, things got better after his suicide attempt. Dad became active in VA PTSD groups. He became more physically

“Do you think I really belong with the rest of these crazies?”

– Richard Lewis Bryant

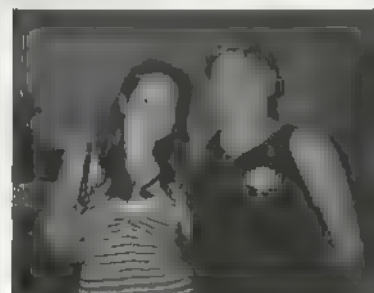
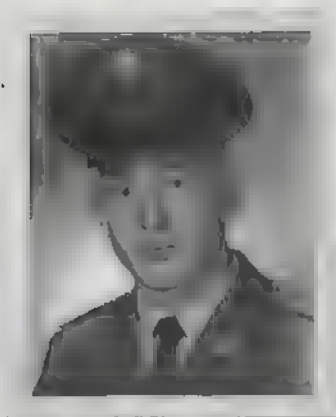


PHOTO BY MARLAIBIA BRILKOWA / OHERIMANA — COURTESY OF THE BRYANT FAMILY

active and even built a deck in his backyard. I saw a glimmer of hope return. Even though they were divorced, my mom and dad became friends again.

Although he appeared to be getting better, I knew he wasn't fixed. He had too many drugs in his system. And time was running out.

A few years later, I spent Christmas Eve with him, as usual. But this one was different. It was how I had always hoped Christmas would be. Dad found the perfect tree. He was surrounded by family – 25 of us. He had a glow about him that I hadn't seen in a long time. He seemed at peace. It was beautiful. Although we didn't know it at the time, he told Aunt Sue that day he thought that Christmas would be his last. He was right.

The last time I talked to Dad was March 27, 2008. I was a sophomore in high school and we planned to go to lunch at the Riverside Plaza. I waited the entire lunch period at the schoolyard gate. He never showed up. When I got home later that day, I found out he was in the hospital. He'd had a heart attack.

When I arrived at San Geronimo Memorial Hospital's intensive care unit, the nurse told me that he was braindead. I remember falling to my knees and feeling helpless. This time, it was real.

In the waiting room, Mom held me and Mitchell. We cried uncontrollably.

After everyone had a chance to say their final goodbyes, the doctors took Dad off of life support a week later.

As with any death, my family mourned,

*Clockwise from top left:*

*Military portrait of 20-year-old Richard Bryant, 1970.*

*Bryant with his infant daughter, Caitlin, in Norco, Calif., 1992.*

*With son and daughter on Christmas in Banning, Calif., 2005.*

*Caitlin and her father on their way to a birthday lunch in Riverside, 2005.*

*Caitlin and her brother Mitchell with mementos of their dad in October.*

*Caitlin and Mitchell with their dad, in front of Mitchell's first car, Riverside, 2005.*

*Richard Bryant on the Colorado River, one of his favorite getaways, 1982.*

*Despite the fact that it's been nearly five years, mementos of Caitlin's dad have not faded.*



## Although we still mourn his loss, Dad continues to take care of us.”

—Caitlin Bryant

but it was a different kind of mourning. I was sad that I would never see him again, but relieved that he no longer suffered.

My dad never broke free of his depression. Yet I remember him as a person everyone wanted to be around. He made me laugh. He was a funny guy who always wore a smile on his face. An incredible athlete. He loved animals. PTSD didn't change that. And yet, it brought him to this. An early death.

He never would have chosen a lifestyle that would have cost him his life. His love for me and Mitchell is what kept him going. PTSD did not keep him from being a loving father.

RICHARD LEWIS BRYANT was buried in a flag-draped coffin at Riverside National Cemetery with full military honors, including taps and a seven-gun salute.

Before we closed his coffin, Mitchell and I placed a laminated photo of ourselves in his folded hands.

Although we still mourn his loss, Dad continues to take care of us. We receive Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, including a monthly stipend and school tuition. But it's little compensation for the pain we all suffered from his war experience.

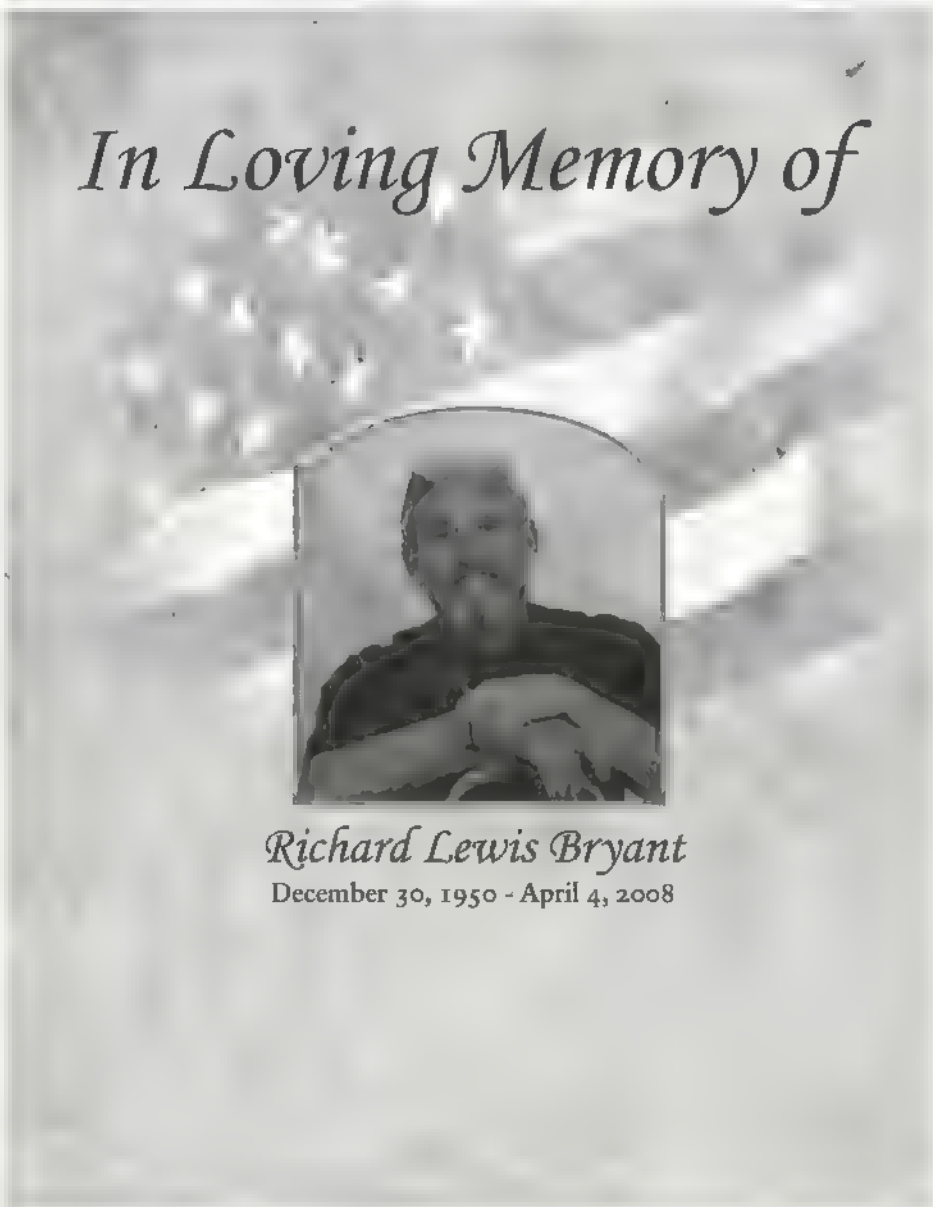
Dad left a lasting legacy. We suffered through his PTSD with him, as thousands of American families will with many of those who come back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The war within begins when the troops return home.

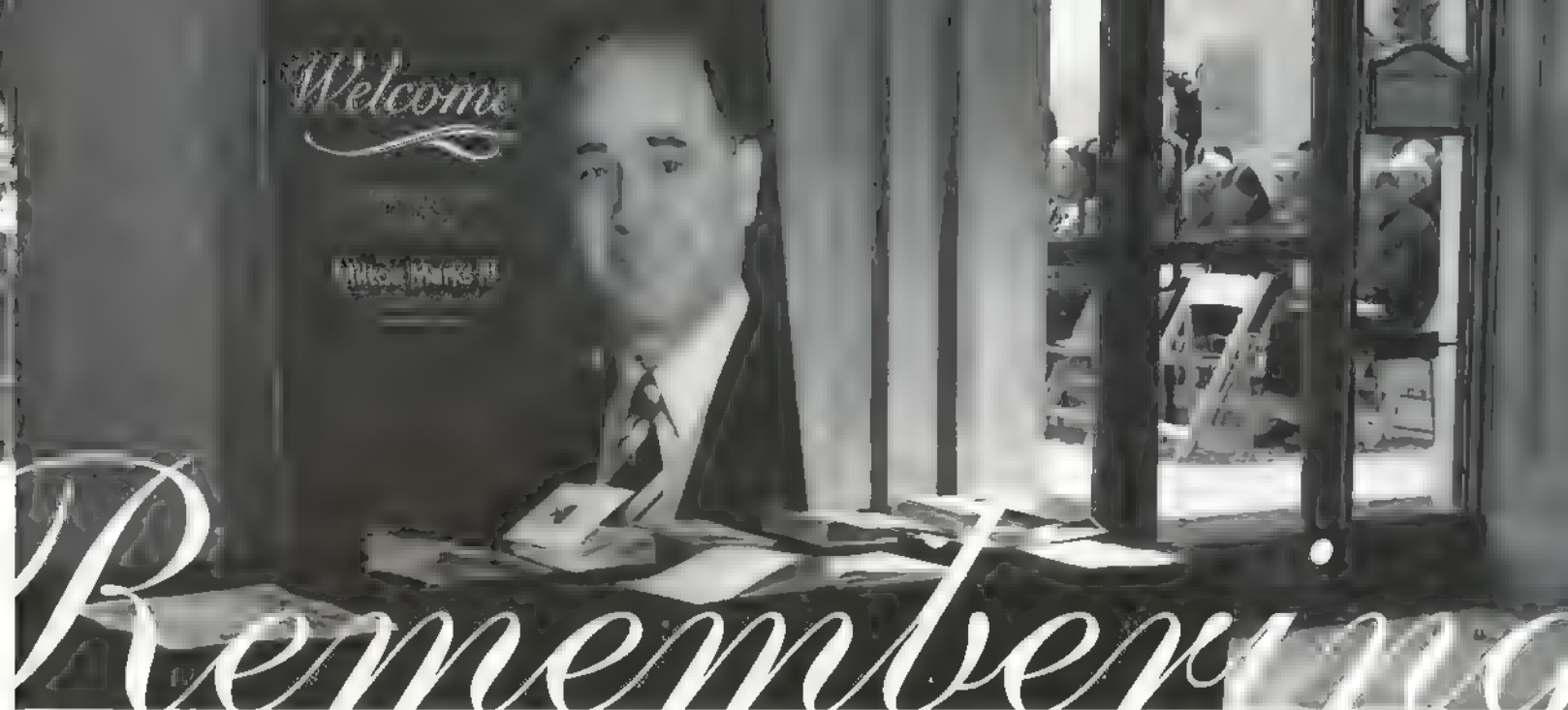
Email Caitlin Bryant  
caitlinrbryant@yahoo.com

*Top right: A commemorative Army dog tag similar to the one worn by the writer's father, was designed by her aunt and passed out at Richard Bryant's funeral service. His daughter recently had a tattoo artist replicate one on her foot.*

*Right: The cover of the program for Richard Lewis Bryant's memorial service on April 4, 2008.*



*Richard Lewis Bryant*  
December 30, 1950 - April 4, 2008



# Milton Marks III • 1959–2012

By Gina Scialabba and Carlene Reyes

City College lost a popular advocate when Milton Marks III, a member of the Board of Trustees and a third-generation San Franciscan, died in August of complications from a brain tumor. He was 52.

**M**r. Marks dedicated his life to public service. His political career began at City College in 2000 when he was first elected to the Board of Trustees.

He set a record for the highest number of votes received by any candidate on the College Board when he was re-elected in 2008.

"He was one of the best trustees we ever had," said current board president John Rizzo. "He always put students first and was a dedicated public servant."

"Even when he was sick from chemotherapy and radiation he would still come to board meetings."

Throughout his life, Mr. Marks championed the underdog. He worked tirelessly for the college, serving as president of the City College Board, as well as vice president and chair of several committees.

In a recent City College commencement speech, Mr. Marks pointed out the importance of the role the school plays in the community.

"Our community college is a national model for academic and vocational education, training tens of thousands of working people," he said. "It is vital to San Francisco's economy and it literally changes lives."

In 2009, when budget cuts reached epic proportions, Mr. Marks organized the school's first "Save CCSF Classes Flea Market and Garage Sale."

"When we first started having budget problems, he came up with the idea," Rizzo said. "Part of it was taking a dire situation and making it positive — making it humorous even though it was very serious. It raised a little money, but more importantly, it raised awareness. It got news coverage about the situation."

Students and faculty donated hundreds of items in an effort to raise money to offset the \$2.4 million needed to restore 400 classes that had been earmarked for cancellation the following spring.

"I thought it was brilliant," Rizzo said. "They made \$12,000 — enough to save two classes."

Before coming to City College, Mr. Marks led various community nonprofit organizations in San Francisco, including Friends of the Urban Forest, which plants trees throughout the city.

"There are so many things in his life to celebrate," Mayor Ed Lee said during

Mr. Marks' memorial service at City Hall in October. "He was leading the effort to restore and elevate the level of integrity and transparency at our City College. He demanded that of the other trustees as well as the administration."

The Marks family has served in public office for three generations.

His mother, Carlene Marks, was an active member of the city's Commission on the Status of Women.

His father, Milton Marks Jr., served as a judge, assemblyman and state senator.

His grandfather represented San Francisco in the State Assembly and later on the Board of Supervisors.

Milton Marks III earned a bachelor's degree in history from Bowdoin College and his master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania.

He is survived by his wife, Abigail; three young sons, Nathan, Will and Theo; his brother, David and sister, Caro.

*Above. At Milton Marks' October memorial service at City Hall, friends, family and colleagues recognized the contributions that the late City College board of trustees president made to the community.*

PHOTO BY MARGARITA BRICHKOVA





PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANELL WILLIAMS

# FOSTERING HIGHER EDUCATION

How City's flagship program helps foster care alumni SUCCEED

By Angela Penny

"The Guard an Scholars Program saved my life," says Shanell Williams, president of City College's Associated Students. "The program is the reason I am able to go to school."

**F**ourteen years ago Shanell was arrested for selling psychedelic drugs near Haight and Masonic.

When she was growing up, her father was addicted to crack, heroin and alcohol. He physically abused her mother, a certified nursing assistant

"I used to hear him hurt my mom and I

just had to sit there and listen. There wasn't anything I could do."

After divorcing her father, her mother fell into a deep depression and wasn't emotionally there for her children.

Shanell grew up in Hayes Valley and went to Marina Middle School. That's when she started having problems. By 15, her mother couldn't control her.

"I got in trouble for everything," she recalls. "Truancy. Shoplifting. Graffiti. Being drunk in public. Selling drugs."

She weighed more than 200 pounds, dyed her hair unnatural colors and dressed provocatively.

"I had really bad self-esteem," she says.

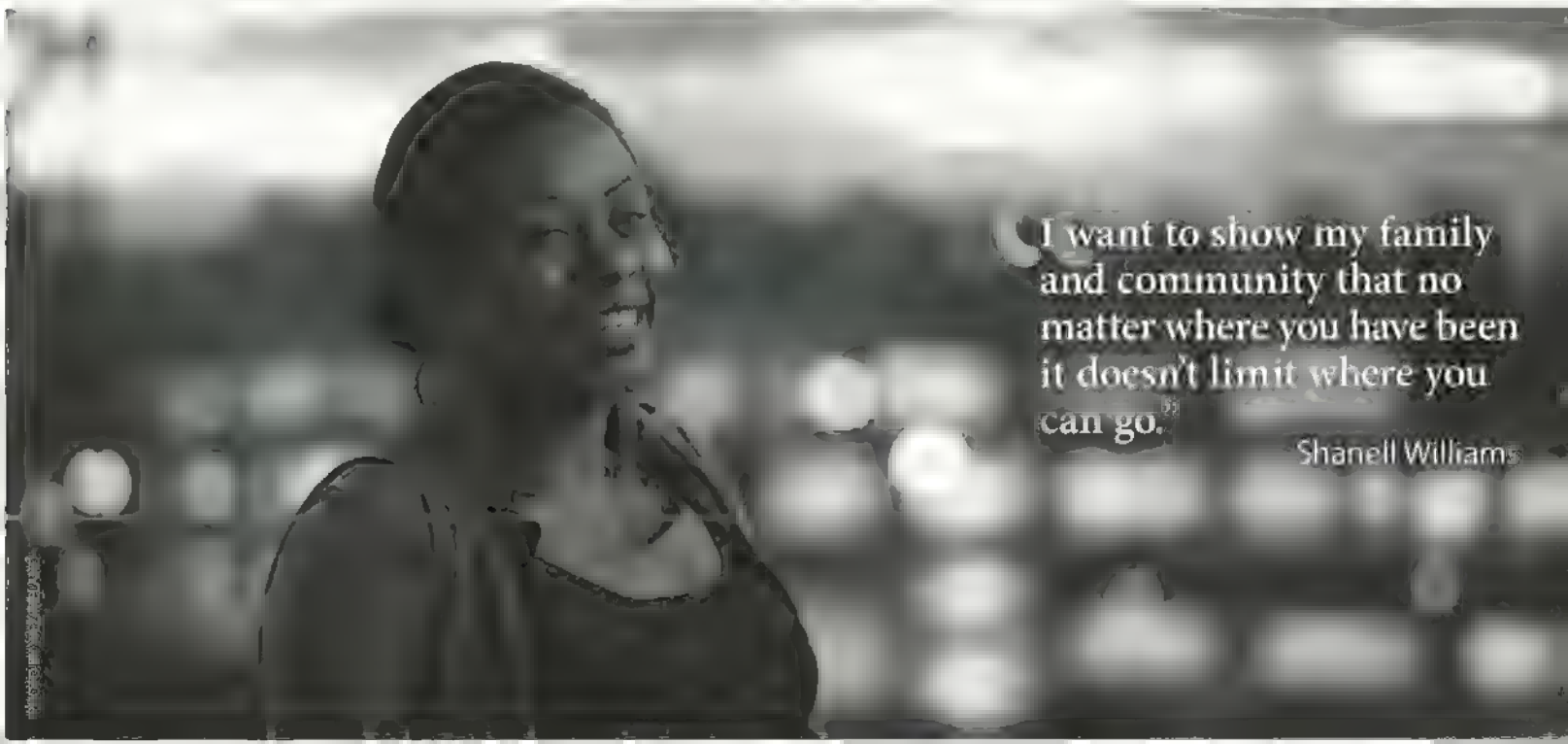
Shanell was in and out of Juvenile Hall because she was drug tested once a week and couldn't stay sober.

Early in high school she became a ward of the juvenile justice and foster care systems.

The judge got tired of seeing her in court. She was sent to Walden House, an adolescent recovery center, for 90 days, then to a group home in Ingleside Terrace for eight months. She could hardly wait to get back on the streets.

At the end of that program, she completely surprised herself and everyone else. In court, she told the judge she wanted

*Shanell Williams, who grew up in foster care, is now president of City College's Associated Students. Above In 2002, she proudly raised her high school diploma*



I want to show my family and community that no matter where you have been it doesn't limit where you can go.

Shanell Williams



to stay for another year and a half.

"A voice told me that if I went back out there I was going to die," she says.

She stayed clean and sober in the group home, where she lived with more than a dozen other girls. She began working for the Human Rights Commission as an intern.

After graduating in 2002 from Walden House, she enrolled at City College.

At 17, she was an emancipated minor who had to work full-time to support herself and to pay for school. She found it hard to keep her grades up and was forced to quit.

At the time, she and other foster care alumni were completely on their own. In 2008, the Guardian Scholars Program was introduced at City College to help students like Shanell.

Today, the Associated Student Council president receives educational and emotional counseling, housing assistance and scholarships through the Guardian program.

At a special meeting of the executive board, held at the Chinatown campus earlier this semester, Shanell wore a thick black headband with her hair pulled back in a tiny ponytail. A blazer complemented a short gray and black striped skirt over royal blue tights and brown leather ankle boots.

The community organizer is committed to saving City College. At the meeting, she volunteered for three new committees and was upset when a lengthy discussion about protocol meant the item had to be tabled. She likes to get things done.

"I'm not trying to be superwoman," she told the Associated Students Executive School Board. "I'm just really passionate about these work groups and I want to have a voice in all of them."

Afterward, while eating dim sum in a hole-in-the-wall restaurant around the corner from the Chinatown campus, she explained her motivation.

"I want to show my family and community that no matter where you have been it doesn't limit where you can go," Shanell says. The 28-year-old, who is working on her associate degree in social and behavioral science, plans to transfer to Stanford.

"Being in foster care exposed me to so many personalities," Shanell says. "I had the opportunity to become more emotionally sophisticated by being in counseling and



Michael McPartlin, co-founder of the Guardian Scholars Program at City College, counsels a foster youth student.

getting feedback from my peers. I have been through hell and back so as an activist and leader I believe anything is possible."

THE GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM, which celebrates its fifth anniversary in January, helps foster care alumni like Shanell "reclaim their lives," says co-founder Michael McPartlin.

It helps these students succeed in higher education by providing comprehensive support to complete an associate degree, a certificate program or to transfer to a four-year college.

Educational success is rare for youth who spend time in foster care. Even though more than 70 percent of these teens say

family support.

"We studied the situation for two years and realized the challenges these youth faced," he says.

They become foster children primarily because of abuse and neglect. The state takes responsibility for their welfare when no one else can. Until this year, the state terminated all financial assistance and benefits when minors turned 18.

Last year, a new law, The Fostering Connections Act, extended the state's responsibility until age 21. It's easier now for foster care youth to focus on school since they can receive help with housing and other services.

City College's Guardian Scholars Program, the largest in the state, serves 150 students. But an estimated 900 students qualify. Because of financial restrictions, only 17 percent benefit.

"Everyone cannot be a Guardian Scholar," McPartlin explains. "But all foster youth alumni deserve to know what their rights and opportunities are."

McPartlin encourages youth to become their own advocates and to ask others to advocate for them.

The Guardian Scholars Program provides mentor training to faculty, staff and administrators.

"The most important thing I can do is to help them find their voice and their power," McPartlin says. "Many of our students learned to compromise their hopes and aspirations as minors. It is vital they be encouraged to demand more of themselves and those around them."

"Our students are living proof that being in foster care does not define your future."

**"Our students are living proof that being in foster care does not define your future. The program has helped many students achieve goals they never dared to dream."**

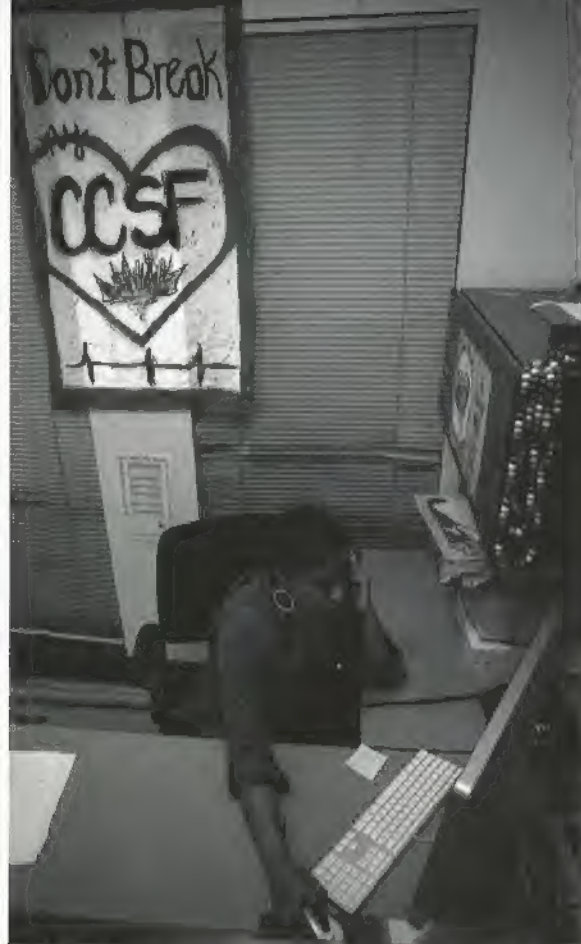
**— Michael McPartlin**

they want a college education, only 10 percent actually enroll. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, a mere 3 percent graduate.

But at City College, more than 60 Guardian Scholars have graduated with an associate degree or transferred to universities.

Six years ago, McPartlin was a financial aid officer when he noticed a pattern of young people who had spent time in the foster care system being forced to drop out of City College because they didn't have





Shanell Williams at the Associated Students' office on Ocean Campus.

The program has helped many students achieve goals they never dared to dream."

REBECCA TAYLOR, a 27-year-old former Guardian Scholar with deep brown eyes, multiple tattoos and an asymmetrical haircut, took a break from trying to sync her supervisor's hard drive with an iPad at her part-time job with the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes.

"McPartlin is one of my biggest cheerleaders," she said. "It was really hard for me to trust him and anyone else who wanted to help me. I was so used to being taken advantage of."

Rebecca graduated from City College's nursing program last year and became a licensed nurse in April.

With a mother who was mentally unstable, Rebecca ran away from home and ended up in the foster care system.

Because her caretakers were not spending the foster care subsidy on her, she decided to emancipate, a legal term describing a minor who takes responsibility for herself.

"Some kids are just paychecks in the system," Rebecca said.

After becoming emancipated, she had to leave her group home. She moved in

with her boyfriend and worked in retail sales, which she hated.

"At one point, I just realized that I was truly alone and that if I wanted to make a change in my life I was going to have to take charge," she said. That's when she enrolled in City College's nursing program.

She didn't realize her foster care alumna status made her eligible for special scholarships.

"I was in the financial aid office and they told me I needed my parents' signature," Rebecca recalls. "That's not going to happen," I told them."

That was her introduction to the Guardian Scholars Program.

ANTHONY PICO'S MOTHER was a crack addict when he was born 23 years ago. As a "crack baby," he was immediately placed in foster care. "Born into the system," he bounced around from house to house, relative to relative.

Unlike many foster youth, he is comfortable talking about his past. In 2006, he was appointed to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. That's when he started speaking out.

His story was featured on "This American Life" the next year. The episode was titled: "Mr. Successful." The former City College philosophy student transferred last year to Loyola Marymount University, a private Jesuit school in Los Angeles.

At Loyola, he pledged a fraternity and made new friends who didn't know anything about his background.

"I told my roommates that I was a foster care advocate and grew up in the system. They couldn't believe it," Anthony said, proud that he wasn't being defined by something that was beyond his control.

"I DON'T HAVE ANY FAMILY. They're all on drugs or criminals," says Shanika Stuart-Riascos, a young woman with dark skin and big brown eyes. The social welfare major wears a brightly colored scarf over her hair and large hoop earrings wrapped in gold colored wire.

Brought up in foster care, she loves being part of the Guardian Scholars Program.

"My hopes for my future are bright, but it's been hard. I have a lot of depression and anxiety because of my past," she says.

The single parent lives in Antioch with her 4-year-old son, Brian, and commutes to City College on BART—a three-hour round trip.

"The program helps me with book vouchers, transportation and rent," she said. "It's very resourceful and always helpful."

She plans to graduate this semester with an associate degree.

"I want to transfer to San Francisco State, and ultimately start a nonprofit to help single moms," she says.

TYRONE BOHTELO LIVED in 18 foster homes during high school.

A few years ago he was a struggling Guardian Scholar at City College, when McPartlin stopped him in the hall and suggested he apply to UC Berkeley.

"What is your G.P.A.?" McPartlin asked.

"Three-point-eight," Tyrone replied.

McPartlin persuaded him to apply and he got in. He majored in Peace and Conflict Studies and received straight A's.

Now his bright gold graduation honors stole rests on McPartlin's chair.

Berkeley sent Tyrone to Paris, where he completed his master's degree.

"They didn't have enough classes for him to do his work at Berkeley," McPartlin says with a certain amount of pride.

At a special event held for Bay Area Guardian Scholars at San Francisco State last year, Tyrone told the group of students to believe in themselves.

"I never thought I could get into UC Berkeley," he said. "All my life I was told I would amount to nothing."

Email Angela Penny  
angela.penny@gmail.com


#### GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Guardian Scholars Program helps students who have been in the foster care system, by providing comprehensive support to help them complete a GED, achieve an associate degree, complete a certificate program or transfer to a four-year institution.

- Students must be 25 or younger to apply to the program, which currently has a 60 percent retention rate
- All benefits (books, transportation, food, and housing assistance) are privately funded

For more information on how to apply, or any other questions about the program, call (415) 239-3682 or visit City College's Ocean Campus Multi-Use Building, Room MU298.





## JOURNALISM: Enroll Now for Spring 2013

Classes start January 14, 2013. To register for courses go to [www.ccsf.edu/schedule](http://www.ccsf.edu/schedule)

### **Jour 19: Contemporary News Media 3.0 units**

30181 001 Lec. MWF 9:10 - 10:00 a.m. BNGL 713 Gonzales

32649 551 Lec. T 6:30 - 9:20 p.m. Mission Campus Rm. 217 Graham

Introduction to modern mass communication, with an emphasis on development of news media, analysis of the credibility of the media and its impact on daily life. CSU/UC

### **Jour 21: News Writing and Reporting 3.0 units**

31867 001 Lec. MWF 10:10 - 11:00 a.m. BNGL 713 Gonzales

31529 534 Lec. T 6:30 - 9:20 p.m. Mission Campus Rm. 218 Rochmis

Techniques of newspaper reporting, developing and writing a news story. Training in information gathering and interviewing sources. PREREQ: ENGL 93 or ENGL 94 or placement in ENGL 96. CSU

### **Jour 22: Feature Writing 3.0 units**

32064 551 Lec. R 6:30 - 9:20 p.m. Mission Campus Rm. 218 Rochmis

Fundamentals in feature writing for magazines and newspapers with special emphasis on profile and interpretive news features. Practical experience in interview and in-depth research techniques. Training in how to write a freelance story for publication. PREREQ: ENGL 93 or 94 or placement in ENGL 96. CSU

### **Jour 24: Newspaper Laboratory 3.0 units**

30182 001 L/L MWF 12:10 - 1:00 p.m. BNGL 615 Gonzales

Advanced newspaper laboratory course focused on the publication of the college paper, The Guardsman. Plus four lab hours by arrangement. PREREQ: JOUR 21, JOUR 22, and GRPH 25. CSU

### **Jour 26: Fundamentals of Public Relations 3.0 units**

34375 501 Lec. W 6:30-9:20 p.m. Mission Campus Rm. 218 Graham

Prepares students to create public relations campaign, including writing media releases, "pitch" letters, public service announcements, managing media outlets, designing leaflets and posters, as well as setting up news conferences. Special attention given to in-house public relations duties for corporate and non-profit entities. ADVISE: JOUR 24

### **Jour 29: Magazine Editing & Production 3.0 units**

31449 551 L/L M 6:30 - 8:20 p.m. Mission Campus Rm. 218 Graham

Students will study the editorial, business, graphic, and production skills required for publishing a campus magazine. Course is appropriate for students interested in creative writing, graphic and fine arts, photography, business and journalism. PREREQ: JOUR 21 or JOUR 22. CSU

### **Jour 31: Internship Experience 2.0 units**

32556 001 Exp Hours Arr Gonzales

Supervised on-campus or off-campus employment in a branch of journalism or a closely allied field to which the student shows him/her self to be best adapted. PREREQ: JOUR 24. CSU

### **Jour 37: Intro to Photojournalism 3.0 units**

32065 551 Lec. W 6:30 - 9:20 p.m. Mission Campus Rm. 217 Lifland

34104 552 Lec. R 6:30 - 9:20 p.m. Mission Campus Rm. 217 Lifland

Emphasis on news and feature photography. Must have an SLR camera. Digital SLR preferred. Assignments involve taking pictures of people, telling stories and conveying information. ADVISE: PHOTO 51 or equivalent experience. CSU



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